



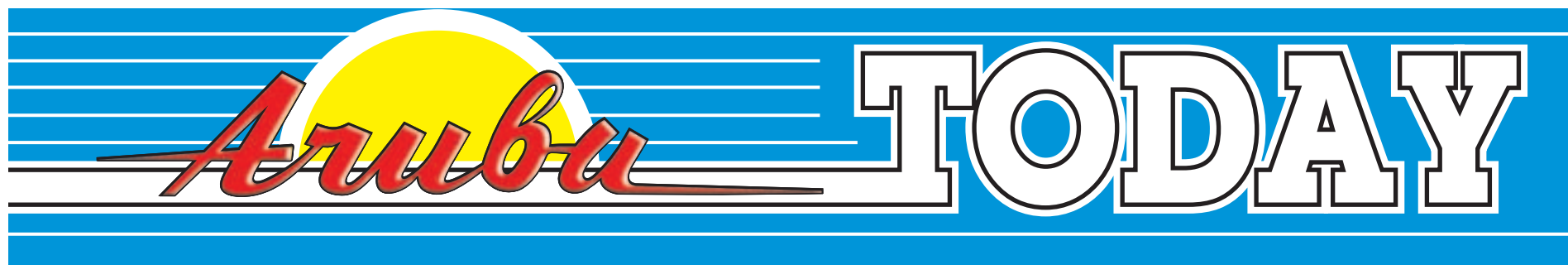
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On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Wednesday, August 27, 2014

THE FIXER



President Barack Obama speaks about veterans issues at the American Legion's 96th National Convention at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, N.C., Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2014. Three months after a veterans' health care scandal rocked his administration, President Barack Obama is taking executive action to improve the mental well-being of veterans. The president was to announce his initiatives during an appearance before the American Legion National Convention that is fraught with midterm politics.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

Obama Plans Measures to Improve Care for Veterans

PETER BAKER

© 2014 New York Times

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - President Barack Obama on Tuesday promised several thousand military veterans that he would take further action to improve their access to health care and housing

as he seeks to turn around a dysfunctional system that has embarrassed his administration.

Addressing the national convention of the American Legion, Obama acknowledged that the government needed to

"regain credibility" after disclosures of falsified records and poor care, and he vowed to follow through on changes that will make the system "more effective and more efficient" and put veterans first.

"What we've come to

learn is that the misconduct we've seen at too many facilities with long wait times and veterans denied care and folks cooking the books is outrageous and inexcusable," Obama said to polite, if not enthusiastic, applause. "We are go-

ing to get to the bottom of these problems. We are going to fix what is wrong. We are going to do right by you and your families, and that is a solid pledge and commitment I'm making to you here."

Continued on page 4

Interfax: Ukraine cites support for peace plan

N. VASILYEVA
PETER LEONARD
Associated Press

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said early Wednesday that he has support for a peace plan from leaders who attended a summit meeting in Minsk, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Interfax news agency reported.

But there were no indications that would mean an immediate end to the fighting in eastern Ukraine between pro-Russia separatists and Ukrainian forces in which about 2,000 civilians and more than 700 Ukrainian troops have died.

Putin said separately he had an "overall positive assessment" of Tuesday's meetings, which included face-to-face talks with Poroshenko.

Putin told reporters there was no discussion of a cease-fire in Ukraine because Russia is not a party to the conflict. Moscow is accused by Kiev and the West of arming and supporting the rebels — a charge the Kremlin denies. In addition to their one-on-one meeting, Putin and Poroshenko also met in a general session meeting with the presidents of Kazakhstan and Belarus, and top European Union officials.

The meeting in the capi-

tal of Belarus came on the same day that Ukraine had said it captured 10 Russian soldiers who had come over the border.

Putin did not directly address the allegation but appeared to tacitly recog-

positioned on roads linking Russia with Crimea, which Moscow annexed in March, has come under heavy artillery firing in the past two days.

Shortly after Poroshenko took office in June, he re-

him as saying.

Getting the rebels to accept the plan, however, would be a key issue, and Russia appears either unable or unwilling to exert influence on the separatists to end their fight.

stopped short of saying that they had failed.

"Sadly, the situation there (in Ukraine) has gone so far that in the absence of agreements in principle, any steps or technical accords are not going to lead to settlement," he said.

Kiev and many Western countries have repeatedly accused Moscow of providing arms and expertise to the pro-Russian rebels to try to destabilize Ukraine, something Russia has denied.

Poroshenko is under pressure to seek a negotiated settlement and not a military victory. He said the purpose of his visit was to start searching for a political compromise and promised that the interests of Russian-speakers in eastern Ukraine would be taken into account.

"The fate of peace and the fate of Europe are being decided in Minsk today," Poroshenko said in his opening remarks.

In his opening statement, Putin argued that Ukraine's decision to sign an association agreement with the 28-nation EU would lead to huge losses for Russia, which would then be forced to protect its economy. Russia had been counting on Ukraine joining a rival economic union it is forming with Belarus and Kazakhstan. □



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, center, and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, pose for a photo prior their talks in Minsk, Belarus, Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2014. The presidents of Russia and Ukraine met face-to-face Tuesday for the first time since June to talk about the fighting that has engulfed Ukraine's separatist east.

(AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)

nize it and suggested that the soldiers simply had become lost.

"Ukrainian soldiers have found themselves on our side, too," he told reporters.

The fighting in eastern Ukraine also had expanded to a new front. The area around the city of Novoazovsk, strategically

leased a peace plan for the conflict that included an amnesty for those not accused of serious crimes and called for some decentralization of power to the region.

"I can say that the logic of this peaceful plan was finally supported by all, without exclusion, of the heads of state," Interfax quoted

The general summit meeting began with a stiff and awkward handshake between Poroshenko and Putin, their first meeting since a brief encounter at a D-Day remembrance ceremony in June.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko told reporters the talks at the summit were "tough," but

Gaza truce open-ended, but puts off tough issues

KARIN LAUB
M. DARAGHMEH
Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel and Gaza's ruling Hamas agreed Tuesday to an open-ended cease-fire after seven weeks of fighting — an uneasy deal that halts the deadliest war the sides have fought in years, with more than 2,200 killed, but puts off the most difficult issues.

In the end, both sides settled for an ambiguous interim agreement in exchange for a period of calm. Hamas, though badly battered, remains in control of Gaza with part of its military arsenal intact. Israel and Egypt will con-

tinue to control access to blockaded Gaza, despite Hamas' long-running demand that the border closures imposed in 2007 be lifted.

Hamas declared victory, even though it had little to show for a war that killed 2,143 Palestinians, wounded more than 11,000 and left some 100,000 homeless. On the Israeli side, 64 soldiers and six civilians were killed, including two killed by Palestinian mortar fire shortly before the cease-fire was announced.

Large crowds gathered in Gaza City after the truce took effect at dusk, some waving the green flags of Hamas, while celebratory

gunfire and fireworks erupted across the territory.

Mahmoud Zahar, a senior Hamas leader, promised to rebuild homes destroyed in the war and said Hamas would rearm. "We will build and upgrade our arsenal to be ready for the coming battle, the battle of full liberation," he declared, surrounded by Hamas gunmen.

The Israeli response was more subdued.

"This time we hope the cease-fire will stick," said Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev. He portrayed the deal as one Hamas had rejected in previous rounds of negotiations.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faced some criticism from hard-line critics and residents of Israeli communities near Gaza who said the deal failed to defuse the threat from Gaza militants. Since July 8, Hamas and its allies have fired some 4,000 rockets and mortars at Israel, and tens of thousands of Israelis evacuated areas near Gaza in recent weeks. Under the Egyptian-brokered deal, Israel is to ease imports to Gaza, including aid and material for reconstruction. It also agreed to a largely symbolic gesture, expanding a fishing zone for Gaza fishermen from three to six nautical miles

into the Mediterranean.

In a month, talks are to begin on more complex issues, including Hamas' demand to start building a seaport and airport in Gaza. Israel has said it would only agree if Hamas disarms, a demand the militant group has rejected.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Tuesday that the agreement offers "an opportunity, not a certainty." "Today's agreement comes after many hours and days of negotiations and discussions. But certainly there's a long road ahead. ... We're going into this eyes wide open," she said. □

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AP: Hurricane Cristobal heads for Bermuda

DANICA COTO
Associated Press
SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico

(AP) — Hurricane Cristobal hurled heavy rains across Atlantic and Caribbean islands on Tuesday as it headed toward Bermuda, and officials said the storm had caused at least five deaths.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said the hurricane would likely avoid a collision with the U.S. Eastern Seaboard, but it was generating life-threatening surf and rip current conditions from central Florida to North Carolina.

The storm had maximum sustained winds of 75 mph (120 kph), and it was expected to strengthen slightly by Thursday after passing northwest of Bermuda on Wednesday. It was centered 460 miles (740 kilometers) west-southwest of Bermuda and was moving north at 15 mph (24 kph). Hurricane force winds extended outward up to 60 miles (95 kilometers) from the center.

Cristobal was expected to dump up to 4 inches (10 centimeters) of rain over Bermuda and lesser amounts over the already sodden Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos.

Hotel owners and tourist operators in Bermuda were dismayed at the forecast. □

Possible airstrikes in Syria raise more questions

KEN DILANIAN
JULIE PACE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The intelligence gathered by U.S. military surveillance flights over Syria could support a broad bombing campaign against the Islamic State militant group, but current and former U.S. officials differ on whether air power would significantly degrade what some have called a "terrorist army."

Further complicating the plans, any military action against Islamic State militants in Syria would also have the effect of putting the U.S. on the same side as Syrian President Bashar Assad, whose ouster the Obama administration has sought for years.

The Islamic State group is headquartered in the Syrian city of Raqqa and has been fighting the Assad government, though it is also at war with moderate rebels who have received arms and funding from the U.S. The group, which controls a large part of eastern Syria, crossed into Iraq earlier this year and has captured much of the Sunni sections of northern and western Iraq, prompting U.S. airstrikes to protect American personnel in that region.

U.S. officials say that surveillance drones and spy planes had begun flying over Syria on the orders of President Barack Obama,



White House press secretary Josh Earnest takes the podium at the White House in Washington, where he took questions on ISIS, Iraq, and Syria. He also received congratulations for his newborn baby.

who is considering a series of military options against the extremist group that also killed an American, journalist James Foley, and is holding an American woman hostage. In recent months, the threat from the Islamic State has eclipsed the issue of Assad, who escaped U.S. military action after Obama pulled back planned airstrikes one year ago in order to consult with Congress.

The hostage-takings have galvanized a U.S. government that already had been trying to respond to the militant group's surge with airstrikes that seem to have the public's approval. The U.S. military has been

bombing the Islamic State group's positions for weeks, helping break its hold on a dam near the city of Mosul. U.S. attacks destroyed two more militant vehicles Tuesday near the Kurdish city of Irbil, bringing to 98 the total number of U.S. airstrikes in Iraq since Aug. 8. The decision to expand surveillance flights into Syria will boost intelligence gathering there, because the flights provide far better imagery and other data than do spy satellites in space orbit. Drones, for example, can hover over targets for hours, and both drones and spy planes can carry equipment that intercepts ground commu-

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

nications. The U.S. is not cooperating or sharing intelligence with the Assad government, Pentagon and State Department spokesmen said. But the U.S. flights are occurring in eastern Syria, away from most of Syria's air defenses.

And experts expressed doubt that Syria would attempt to shoot down American aircraft that are paving the way for a possible bombing campaign against Assad's enemies. As Obama contemplates options, military officials are sorting through what kind of campaign it would take to defeat or contain the Islamic State group. □



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Obama plans measures to improve care for veterans

Continued from Front

Obama was accompanied by Robert McDonald, a former chief executive of Procter & Gamble who replaced Eric Shinseki as veterans affairs secretary after he resigned at the end of May amid reports of troubles throughout the system.

The president has also signed bipartisan legislation devoting \$16 billion to the goal of fixing the veterans' health care system by, among other things, hiring more providers to shorten wait times.

The new law will give McDonald more authority to fire officials for poor performance and will allow veterans to use other pro-

viders if they cannot obtain prompt attention at a Veterans Affairs facility.

The president used the visit to the American Legion convention to announce

several additional steps he will take, using his executive authority, that are mainly intended to make it easier for veterans to receive mental health care and to lower their monthly housing payments.

Among other things, members of the armed forces leaving service will be automatically enrolled in the department's transition program rather than having to seek it out themselves or requiring referrals, officials said.

The Department of Veterans Affairs will test expanded peer support for mental health, conduct studies on early detection of post-traumatic stress and suicidal thoughts, and extend suicide prevention and mental health training for health care providers, chaplains and others who work with veterans.

The administration will also

team up with large banks to make it easier for active-duty military service members to reduce mortgage interest rates and will expand efforts to make sure troops can get the student debt relief to which they are already entitled, officials said.

The various actions, according to a White House statement, "reflect the commitment of the president and his administration to expanding opportunity for those who sacrifice so much to serve our country: our service members, veterans and their families."

Some veterans in Charlotte expressed frustration that changes had not been made more quickly or extensively. At a town-hall meeting Monday night, some of the roughly 30 veterans present described their experiences or those of their colleagues. □



President Barack Obama greet legionnaires before speaking at the American Legion national convention in Charlotte, N.C., Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2014. Three months after a veterans' health care scandal rocked his administration, President Barack Obama is taking executive action to improve the mental well-being of veterans. The president was to announce his initiatives during an appearance before the American Legion National Convention that is fraught with midterm politics.

(AP Photo/Chuck Burton)

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Suspect in fatal LA shootings is charged with murder

TAMI ABDOLLAH
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Prosecutors on Tuesday charged a suspect in three Los Angeles-area weekend killings with murder in an earlier shooting.

The Los Angeles County district attorney's office said 34-year-old Alexander Hernandez was charged with capital murder for killing 48-year-old Gildardo Morales as he drove his pickup truck to work on Aug. 21. Hernandez was also charged with attempted murder and animal cruelty in other random shootings over the past five days, authorities said.

On Aug. 22, police say Hernandez fired at a couple in their vehicle in West Hollywood. They weren't in-

jured. The following day he drove by a house and shot three dogs, killing two, authorities said.

Hernandez was charged with one count of murder with a special circumstance of shooting at an occupied vehicle, two counts of attempted murder, three counts of animal cruelty, two counts of discharge of a firearm with gross negligence and one count of possession of a firearm by a felon and possession of ammunition.

The district attorney's office said Hernandez has four prior convictions, including possession for sale of methamphetamine, possession of a controlled substance with a firearm, and possession of a firearm by a felon. □

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Couple plead guilty in man's Craigslist killing

PETER JACKSON
Associated Press
HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania

(AP) — A newlywed couple charged in the stabbing death of a stranger they lured through a Craigslist ad offering companionship pleaded guilty to murder on Tuesday and face mandatory sentences of life without parole.

Miranda Barbour, 19, and Elytte Barbour, 22, had previously pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder charges that carried a possible death penalty upon conviction. They changed their pleas to guilty of second-degree murder at what was to have been a routine status meeting at a court in central Pennsylvania.

The Barbours married in North Carolina and moved to Pennsylvania about three weeks before they met up with the victim, Troy LaFerrara, when he accepted her offer of companionship in exchange for money.

Miranda Barbour picked up LaFerrara at a mall on Nov. 11 and drove in her car to Sunbury, a small city northwest of Philadelphia. After they parked, Elytte Barbour came out of his hiding place under a blanket in the back seat and held

a cord tight against LaFerrara's neck while his wife stabbed the man about 20 times. They dumped his body in an alley.

Elytte Barbour later told police the couple killed LaFerrara, who was 42, because they wanted to kill someone together.

The Barbours are scheduled to be sentenced Sept. 18 in Northumberland County Court, said a law clerk for Judge Charles Saylor, who's handling the case.

Miranda Barbour's lawyer did not return messages seeking comment Tuesday. She initially denied knowing LaFerrara, who was from Trevorton, but changed her story when police gathered records that showed the last call to his cellphone came from hers, authorities said.

Elytte Barbour admitted his involvement a few days later after police obtained video surveillance recordings that showed him getting out of her car on the night of the killing and buying supplies to clean it.

In April, Miranda Barbour gained fleeting notoriety when she said in an interview with Sunbury's The Daily Item newspaper that she had killed at least 22 other people in Alaska,

Texas, North Carolina and California over six years as part of her involvement in a satanic cult. □



Elytte Barbour, left, is escorted from the Northumberland County Courthouse by Sheriff Robert Wolfe after pleading guilty to second degree murder Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2014, Sunbury, Pa. Elytte and Miranda

(AP Photo/The News-Item, Mike Staugaitis)

Officials: Girl accidentally shoots, kills gun instructor

DOLAN SPRINGS, Arizona

(AP) — A 9-year-old girl accidentally killed an Arizona shooting instructor as he was showing her how to use an automatic Uzi, authorities said Tuesday. Charles Vacca, 39, died Monday shortly after being airlifted to University Medical Center in Las Vegas, Mohave County sheriff's officials said.

Vacca was standing next to the girl at the Last Stop outdoor shooting range in White Hills when she pulled the trigger and the recoil sent the gun over her head, investigators said.

Authorities said the girl was at the shooting range with her parents. Her name was

not released.

A woman who answered the phone at the shooting range said it had no comment. She did not provide her name.

It is not known if the range had an age limit on shooting or if the girl was going through a safety class.

Ronald Scott, a firearms safety expert, said most shooting ranges have an age limit and strict safety rules when teaching children to shoot. He said instructors usually have their hands on guns when children are firing high-powered weapons.

"You can't give a 9-year-old an Uzi and expect her to control it," Scott said. □

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AP survey: Fed's outlook correct but not solution

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Economists appear to be of two minds about the Federal Reserve.

They agree with the Fed that the job market still isn't healthy. Yet the latest Associated Press survey of

— would likely take jobs or work more hours if they could.

Still, they're concerned that Janet Yellen's Fed won't raise rates soon enough.

"I agree with her diagnosis; I even like what she has in mind," said Mark

than inflation," said David Shulman, an economist at UCLA's Anderson School of Management, referring to the Fed's drive to lower unemployment. "They'll risk financial bubbles."

Lynn Reaser, a professor at Point Loma Nazarene University, agrees with Yellen

to the economy."

Strikingly, while the economists worry that the Fed won't get out of the way of the strengthening U.S. recovery soon enough, they fear the opposite about Europe: That its economy may have entered a "lost decade" similar to Japan's long-standing stagnation. Some, like Allen Sinai, chief global economist at Decision Economics, think the European Central Bank has been too cautious and should launch a bond-buying program akin to what the Fed had done. The idea would be to keep rates low, boost stock prices and shrink the euro's value, which would make European exports more affordable.

"The sooner they do that, the better the chance that Europe can get out of the lost decade before it turns into two decades," Sinai said.

ECB President Mario Draghi hinted last week that the central bank could take such a move in coming months.

Among the economists' other consensus views:

— The Fed's low-rate policies have already inflated a bubble in at least one asset group. Most of the economists who see a bubble think one exists in high-yield corporate bonds, often called "junk" bonds, and in emerging-market debt. Others detect bubbles in small social-media or biotechnology companies or in the stock market as a whole. On Monday, the leading stock-market averages set record highs. — Inflation will remain generally below the Fed's

long-term target rate of 2 percent this year but will consistently exceed that rate next year. Only if inflation were to reach or top 3 percent do the economists think the Fed should immediately raise rates regardless of how the economy was faring.

— Sluggish wage growth is slowing the U.S. economy. The most commonly cited factor is that too many people still lack jobs — including many who aren't being counted as unemployed because they've stopped looking for work. And pay growth won't start to significantly exceed inflation until next year at the earliest. Flat wages are "a limiting factor for consumer spending growth and a major restraint for the housing recovery," said Scott Brown, chief economist at financial services firm Raymond James.

Zandi said his concerns about the Fed's interest-rate policy stem in part from the Fed's own outlook. The Fed forecasts that the unemployment rate will fall to between 5.1 percent and 5.5 percent by the end of 2016 from the current 6.2 percent. The Fed thinks unemployment at that level would likely enable workers to demand higher pay and therefore lift inflation above the Fed's long-range target. Yet Fed officials expect the interest rate it controls to remain below historical norms until a year later.

That suggests that Yellen is willing to risk letting inflation run above the Fed's 2 percent target to try to boost growth and hiring, Zandi said. □



Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen speaks during a news conference at the Federal Reserve in Washington. Economists agree with Yellen that the economy and job market still need ultra-low interest rates to support growth. Yet the latest Associated Press survey of economists shows that most also fear that the Fed will wait too long before raising rates, perhaps triggering high inflation or financial asset bubbles.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

economists finds that most fear the Fed will wait too long to raise interest rates and thereby risk stoking inflation or creating asset bubbles.

The duality of their views underscores the perils of the Fed's policymaking. Most economists accept that there's still "significant" slack in the job market. By that they mean that millions of people — the unemployed as well as part-time workers and people who've stopped looking for work and aren't counted as unemployed

Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics. "But I'm skeptical that she'll be able to pull it off."

The AP surveyed three dozen private, corporate and academic economists from Aug. 13 to 19. In follow-up interviews, several said they feared that by waiting too long to raise rates, the Fed could ignite inflation or may already be feeding speculative bubbles in assets such as stocks or high-yield bonds.

"Yellen's much more concerned about the Fed's employment mandate

that if the economy were nearing full health, workers' pay would be rising faster, fewer people would be unemployed for more than six months and many part-timers who want full-time jobs would manage to find them.

But "by the time we hit that situation, there may already be pressures on the inflation front or significant bubbles in various asset markets," Reaser said. "To play catch-up at that point may require large increases in interest rates, which could be very damaging



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US Financial Front:

America's durable goods orders surge record 22.6%

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Business orders for long-lasting manufactured goods shot up by the largest amount on record in July. But most of the strength came from demand for commercial aircraft, which tends to fluctuate sharply from month to month. Outside of transportation, orders dipped. Despite the broader weakness in July, most analysts said factory output will likely support solid economic growth in the second half of this year as companies increase their orders for the equipment they need to

meet rising demand.

Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics, noted that some manufacturers are starting to run out of production capacity and that loans to businesses are up sharply.

"We suspect that investment will prove to be one of the economy's bright spots in the second half of this year," Dales wrote in a research note.

Orders for durable goods in July rose 22.6 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. The strength came from a 318 percent increase in orders



Orestes Perez, right, and his niece Yanuska Perez, check a 2013 Ford Fusion SE at a local dealership in Hialeah, Fla. The Commerce Department reported on business orders for durable goods in July on Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2014.

(AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

New York investor firm exec charged with insider trading

LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The director of market intelligence at an investor relations firm was arrested on insider trading charges Tuesday and accused of using drafts of press releases to illegally earn more than a half-million dollars. Michael Lucarelli was a director at Manhattan-based Lippert/Heilshorn & Associates Inc. when he made the illegal trades over the last year, prosecutors said as they announced 13 securities fraud charges. Authorities said Lucarelli made multiple illegal trades using information from the working drafts of press releases about upcoming earnings reports that his company prepared for its clients. They said he used four different brokerage accounts to carry out the trades, although two of the accounts were suspended

in March by a brokerage firm that was not identified in court papers.

"Despite the well-known parade of convicted insider trading perpetrators over the past several years, Michael Lucarelli was not deterred and violated both his company's policies and his responsibility to its clients," U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said in a release.

George Venizelos, head of the New York FBI office, said that rather than doing his job, Lucarelli "spent his days setting up brokerage accounts to make illegal trades using inside information from unwitting clients." Keith Lippert, a founding partner at Lippert/Heilshorn & Associates, said authorities told the company about the insider trading on July 22. Two days later, the FBI obtained a search warrant to search Lucarelli's office, a criminal complaint said. □

for civilian aircraft, which helped lift orders for transportation equipment by a record 74.2 percent.

Excluding transportation, orders fell 0.8 percent. And a key category that serves as a proxy for business-investment plans dropped 0.5 percent.

Still, that followed a sizable 5.4 percent rise in the previ-

ous month.

After going into reverse during the first three months of the year, mainly because of the severe winter, the U.S. economy rebounded in the April-June quarter: It grew at a solid annual rate of 4 percent as measured by the gross domestic product, the economy's total output of goods and

services.

The jump in commercial aircraft orders reflected a good month for Boeing, which reported 324 orders for new aircraft in July, up from 109 orders in June. And this week, the company said it received an \$8.8 billion order from an aircraft leasing company based in Singapore. □

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AMY TAXIN

Associated Press

COSTA MESA, California (AP) — Nearly two dozen Chinese tourists descended from a white shuttle bus for an afternoon of shopping at one of Southern California's signature upscale malls.

One tourist conferred with a salesman at South Coast Plaza about a plum-colored, \$610 Prada handbag while fellow visitors on the 10-day tour sauntered through the mall, each with their sole child in tow, after a morning of whale watching off the California coast. It's a common scene at the popular destination in Orange County, which is doing what it can to keep buses filled with Chinese tourists coming. To make them feel at home, it accepts China's UnionPay card and provides Mandarin-speaking salespeople.

From the mall's shops to tourist spots that offer maps and brochures in Mandarin to hotels serving congee, or rice porridge, for breakfast, busi-

nesses in California are trying to entice the growing numbers of Chinese

the U.S. has soared since the countries signed an agreement in 2007 pro-

of \$5,400, 21 percent more than the average for all overseas tourists.



South Coast Plaza General Manager Werner Escher, right, welcomes Chinese tourists visiting the shopping center into the VIP room in Costa Mesa, Calif. Chinese tourism is surging and the mall is a popular destination that is doing what it can to keep the buses coming, from accepting China's UnionPay card to providing Mandarin-speaking salespeople. Tourism from China to the United States has soared since the countries signed an agreement in 2007 promoting travel.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

nesses in California are trying to entice the growing numbers of Chinese tourists coming to the U.S. to visit the state — and spend money. Tourism from China to

moting travel. More than 1.8 million Chinese visited last year, a three-fold increase in five years. By 2018, the number is expected to surpass 4 million, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

California, the No. 1 destination, holds particular allure due to its proximity to China, theme parks and sunny weather. Nearly half of all Chinese tourists make a stop in the state. Haybina Hao, of the National Tour Association, which qualifies U.S.-based tour operators to receive Chinese tour groups under the 2007 agreement, said the tourists are keen to see how a relatively young country like the U.S. developed so quickly and became so prosperous.

"Until they have visited U.S.A., they don't feel they have done their international travel yet," Hao said. "They need to see it and put themselves in the photograph, so they can prove they have done this."

During their travels, they each spend an average

"We see tremendous potential," said Nick Hentschel, vice president of AmericanTours International LLC. He said 15 percent of the company's business now stems from China compared to virtually none a little more than five years ago.

Hentschel said China is the only country where ATI, which originally focused on tourism from Western Europe, Australia and New Zealand, has opened a local office. "But it is cutthroat," he said, adding that some tour operators slashed prices to vie for a place in the Chinese market.

At first, tours from China mostly included older people, some who had saved for years to make the trip. But now more also include middle-aged parents bringing their only child to see America and school groups of teens who tour during summer break.

Many are eager to visit Disneyland and snap photographs at landmarks such as the Hollywood sign and San Francisco's Golden Gate

Bridge. They enjoy trying American foods — steak is a favorite — and taking advantage of cheaper prices for designer goods. "It's shopping paradise," said 35-year-old Cici Chen on a stop at Disney California Adventure. Chen said she planned to fill up her suitcases on her California vacation before returning to Shanghai.

In the early years, Disney officials traveled to China to try to explain to the elder generations what the park was about since many weren't as familiar with American stories and movies as are younger visitors today.

"A challenge was many of our Chinese guests were not familiar with the Disney stories," said Nicky Tang, director of Asia Pacific sales for Disney Destinations, of the older generation of tourists. "They grew up not knowing who Snow White is or Cinderella or Peter Pan."

Many Chinese tourists see America from large tour buses, while some travel in smaller groups or rent cars to explore on their own. Others come on trips sponsored by employers as job-related perks, and travel in huge groups.

A 7,000-strong contingent held a two-day meeting in Southern California earlier this year and then fanned out to travel across the region. A group more than twice that size is expected in California next year, said Ed Fuller, president of the Orange County Visitors Association.

Zhang Huan, 42, was among those touring Disney California Adventure with his wife, mother-in-law and 11-year-old son. He said he budgeted \$20,000 for the family's first U.S. trip. While the itinerary mostly focused on leisure, Zhang said he was also looking forward to making a stop with his son at a college campus. He hopes it's not the last visit there.

"If he can study hard, he can go to Stanford," Zhang said. □



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Report finds 1,400 children exploited in UK town

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — About 1,400 children were sexually exploited in a northern England town, a report concluded Tuesday in a damning account of "collective failures" by authorities to prevent victims as young as 11 from being beaten, raped and trafficked over a 16-year period.

Report author Alexis Jay cited appalling acts of violence between 1997 and 2013 in Rotherham, a town of some 250,000. The independent report came after a series of convictions of sexual predators in the region and ground-breaking reports in the Times of London.

Reading descriptions of the abuse make it hard to imagine that nothing was done for so long. The report described rapes by multiple perpetrators, mainly from Britain's Pakistani community, and how children were trafficked to



Professor Alexis Jay during a press conference at the New York Stadium, Rotherham, England, Tuesday Aug. 26, 2014, following the publication of a report she wrote which found around 1,400 children were sexually exploited in the town over a 16-year period. Rotherham Council leader Roger Stone resigned Tuesday following the publication of the shocking report which detailed gang rapes, grooming, trafficking and other sexual exploitation on a wide scale in the South Yorkshire town.

(AP Photo/PA, Dave Higgins)

other towns and cities in the north of England, abducted, beaten, and intimidated.

"There were examples of children who had been

doused in petrol and threatened with being set alight, threatened with guns, made to witness brutally violent rapes and threatened they would be next if they told anyone," Jay said. "Girls as young as 11 were raped by large

numbers of male perpetrators."

The report's author took great pains to make sure the identities of the children were not revealed, but offered a general description of the cases showing the victims were between 11

and 16 years old. Most, but not all, were girls, who are preyed upon by unrelated older men.

A sampling of case studies showed the victims first came into contact with authorities for a variety of reasons, including being reported missing from their homes, leaving school with unknown men or as victims of stalking. While most of the victims in the older cases were described as "white British children," but the report said that more recently a greater number of cases were coming from the growing Pakistani, Kashmiri and Roma communities.

Attention first fell on Rotherham in 2010 when five men received lengthy jail terms after convictions of grooming teens for sex. A series of other high-profile cases featuring Pakistani rings also emerged in Rochdale, Derby and Oxford—and communities began to look more closely at their child sex exploitation cases.

Rotherham decided to conduct a formal inquiry and Jay. □

French government reshuffle expels dissident ministers

PARIS (AP) — France's prime minister reshuffled his Cabinet on Tuesday to silence ministers who had openly criticized Socialist President Francois Hollande's economic policies as he tries to pull the nation out of stagnation and steer it toward growth.

Emmanuel Macron, who had earlier served as top adviser in charge of the economy, took over the Economy Ministry, replacing Arnaud Montebourg, who had publicly railed against government policies as being too austere and unjust to the French. Macron, a 36-year-old for-

mer banker who advised Hollande until June 2014, is known for his pro-business stance and is sure to send a positive signal to the European Union, which is pressuring France to get its finances in order.

Education Minister Benoit Hamon and Culture Minister Aurelie Filippetti, who supported Montebourg in his criticism, also lost their jobs.

Hamon was replaced by Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, the former sports and youth minister, and Filippetti was replaced by Fleur Pellerin, former minister for commerce and tourism. □



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Afghan candidate threatens boycott of vote audit

AMIR SHAH
REBECCA SANTANA
Associated Press
KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — One of the two men vying to become Afghanistan's next president is threatening to boycott a ballot audit from the country's disputed presidential runoff, his adviser said Tuesday, a development that could further disrupt the already troubled process. The complicated, U.N.-supervised audit of the 8

million votes from the June presidential runoff was brokered by the U.S. in July as a way to end the fractious debate over who won the election. The process followed allegations of vote fraud on both sides and is meant to decide whether Abdullah Abdullah, a former foreign minister, or former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai will replace President Hamid Karzai. Abdullah is apparently con-

cerned that the audit has allegedly failed to invalidate a sufficient number of ballots so far that would correspond to the level of vote fraud his team claims has taken place. A top adviser for Abdullah told reporters on Tuesday that if Abdullah's concerns are not addressed by Wednesday morning, he will pull out of the audit. "If our demands are not accepted, we will announce the end of this process,"

Fazel Ahmad Manawi said. "This process will not be acceptable to us and the result will not have any value." Manawi said the election commission ignored their complaints about fraudulent ballots. A spokesman for the Independent Election Commission, Noor Ahmad Noor, said the recount would proceed Wednesday regardless of whether Abdullah's team decided to take part.

The United Nations issued a lengthy statement pointing out the high level of input each team has had in the audit process and said the audit would continue even if one side pulls out. A representative from Ahmadzai's campaign dismissed the boycott threat, saying they'd already made numerous concessions to Abdullah's side and that the fraud Abdullah has been alleging simply was not there. □

Jewish center reopens 6 years after Mumbai attacks

RISHI LEKHI
Associated Press
MUMBAI, India (AP) — Rabbis from across Asia on Tuesday celebrated the reopening of a Jewish center targeted by rampaging Pakistani gunmen who stormed through Mumbai on a 60-hour killing spree in 2008. The attacks on the Chabad center and other iconic locations in India's financial capital left 166 people dead. Among them were six people from the orthodox Jewish center, including Rabbi Gavriel Holtzberg and his wife. Their infant son escaped in the arms of his Indian nanny, and the two now live in Israel. Rabbi Israel Kozlovsky, who now runs the Mumbai center, said the rebuilt six-story Nariman House would house a \$2.5 million Jewish Museum as well as Mumbai's first memorial to those killed in the attacks, which also targeted a train station, a popular tourist cafe and the luxury Taj Mahal hotel.

The building's memorial includes a recreation of the slain rabbi's home and videos about Jewish culture,

celebrate their lives and the message of light that they spread," the slain rabbi's father, Rabbi Nachman

from centers across Asia set up by the orthodox Jewish group Chabad-Lubavitch. The group has a

presence in more than 80 countries and has grown rapidly in the last two decades in Asia. Since the terrorist attacks, the Mumbai Chabad center conducted spiritual services and social outreach from temporary locations in the western Indian port city. Reconstruction had been delayed while Holtzberg's parents briefly fought the New York-based Jewish group in a Mumbai court over who would control and redesign the property. The property title lies with the Chabad of India-Trust, which Gavriel Holtzberg had helped set up in 2005. But the two sides dropped the case in 2011, with the organization assuming stewardship. Rabbi Moshe Kotlarsky from the Jewish group's educational arm said the reopening should be seen as a message to the world. "You can overcome challenges, even the most horrific of challenges," he said in a statement, adding that "this project serves as a beacon of light and hope that evil will not prevail." □



A rabbi carries the holy Torah scroll after the reopening of Chabad Center in Mumbai, India, Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2014. Rabbis from across Asia on Tuesday celebrated the reopening of the Jewish center targeted by rampaging Pakistani gunmen who stormed through Mumbai on a 60-hour killing spree in 2008.
(AP Photo/Rajanish Kakade)

according to the lead designer, Nick Appelbaum. "This is the day we can cel-

Holtzberg, said through a translator to a roomful of rabbis who had traveled

presence in more than 80 countries and has grown rapidly in the last two de-

Australian lawmaker apologizes to China for tirade

ROD McGUIRK
Associated Press
CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australian mining magnate turned lawmaker Clive Palmer has apologized to China over an extraordinary tirade on national television in which he called the Chinese "bastards" and "mongrels" and accused Beijing of trying to take over Australia. Following the volatile multimillionaire's Aug. 18 outburst on Australian Broadcasting Corp.'s "Q & A" program,

government ministers accused him of threatening Australia's relationship with its biggest trading partner and distanced themselves from his views. Palmer, meanwhile, largely avoided commenting on the issue. But Palmer, who was elected to Parliament last September from his own Palmer United Party, released on Tuesday the text of an apology letter to China's ambassador to Australia, Ma Zhaoyu. "I most sincerely apologize

for any insult to Chinese people caused by any of the language I used," Palmer wrote in the letter, dated Aug. 25. "In keeping an open mind, I now come to the realization that what I said on Q&A was an insult to Chinese people everywhere and I wish to assure them they have my most genuine and sincere apology," the letter said. The tirade began when Palmer, 60, was questioned about a legal dispute between his mining company

Mineralogy and its Chinese state-owned partner, CITIC Pacific Mining. CITIC alleged in court that Palmer siphoned 12 million Australian dollars (\$11 million) to fund his party's election campaign. Palmer, whose party forms a powerful voting bloc in the Senate with the support of four senators, said his companies were owed "about AU\$500 million by the communist Chinese government that doesn't want to pay." He said he was countersuing. "I don't mind

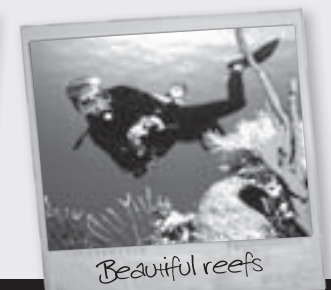
standing up against the Chinese bastards and stopping them from doing it," Palmer said. He said his companies already had three federal and supreme court judgments "against these Chinese mongrels." "I'm saying this because they're communist, they shoot their own people, they haven't got a justice system and they want to take over this country, and we're not going to let them do it," Palmer said on the program. □

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Brazilian prison riot that left 5 dead now over

STAN LEHMAN
Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — A two-day prison uprising in southern Brazil that left five inmates dead ended Tuesday as officials met demands to transfer many of the prisoners.

Two inmates were beheaded during the riot and three others were thrown to their deaths from the prison roof.

Mara de Carli, a press officer of the Justice Secretariat of Parana state, said the uprising that began Sunday at the Cascavel penitentiary ended early Tuesday morning with the transfer of some 800 inmates to other prison facilities — the main demand of the inmates.

De Carli said two prison guards held hostage were released with non-life-threatening injuries which were treated in a local hospital.

At least 600 inmates took part in the rebellion, she said.

During the riot prisoners set some objects on fire and used metal bars to damage the prison that housed more than 1,000 inmates at the time.

Dozens of prisoners climbed onto the building's rooftop, with their faces covered with white fabric. Local media images showed at least 30 rebellious inmates shouting while they beat men held with ropes around their necks, or whose hands were tied behind them. The rioting inmates waved banners emblazoned with "PCC," the initials for the Sao Paulo-based First Capital Command, the country's largest and most feared organized crime group. □

Cubans flock to the beach amid stifling heat

HAVANA (AP) — In the long, sticky Cuban summer, keeping cool is serious business.

Each day, and especially on weekends, thousands of Havana residents rise early to make the trek from rural hamlets and stuffy urban neighborhoods for the more forgiving atmosphere at the island's powdery beaches. Temperatures in the capital can reach as high as 31 degrees Celsius (87 degrees Fahrenheit) in July and August, with humidity hovering above 80 percent.

When it's running, many people take a special summer train from Havana to Guanabo, east of the capital. Some families squeeze into classic American sedans from the 1950s. Neighbors pool their money and hire a bus to travel en masse. Others clamber onto covered horse-drawn carriages that take them a few kilometers (miles) down a dirt track to the coast for just 2 pesos a head, or about \$0.08.

Once there, some recreate their dining rooms in the sand underneath makeshift tarpaulin shelters, with wooden chairs and tables topped by pots of rice and

beans. There are cakes to celebrate birthdays, and barrels of ice to keep drinks cold.

A shirtless man with an arm tattoo of revolutionary

(10-meter) train bridge.

Musicians in mariachi costumes roam the white sands serenading young lovers and sweet-15 "quinceaneras." As dusk

long day in the sun.

Cuba's Meteorological Institute said recently the island had recorded its third-hottest July since 1951, with an average of



People walk towards the beach after leaving the train that brought them from the capital to a nearby beach of Havana, Cuba. Many Cubans take the special summer train from Havana to the beach in Guanabo, east of the capital. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

Ernesto "Che" Guevara holds a young girl's hand as they wade into the gentle waves. Kids splash around on an inner tube. At a nearby river mouth, daredevil teenage boys try to impress girls by leaping from a rusty, 30-foot-tall

nears, couples sit in the shallows sipping rum and enjoying a romantic sunset snog.

Soon enough it's time to go home. One man carries his daughter on his shoulders. It's a long way back, and she's tuckered out after a

28 degrees Celsius (about 82 degrees Fahrenheit) for the whole month amid unusually warm mornings, weak sea breezes and relatively scarce rains that provide at least temporary relief from the suffocating weather. □

Argentina: US-based BNY Mellon not welcome

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Bank of New York Mellon, which has played a central role in the legal dispute that pushed Argentina into default last month, is no longer authorized to operate in the South American country, the government said Tuesday. Argentina has revoked the BNY Mellon's permission to operate because of what Cabinet Chief Jorge Capitanich said was the U.S.-based bank's failure to comply with its duties

as trustee of some of the country's bonds.

BNY Mellon has no retail operations in Argentina, so the government's announcement appeared to be part of a plan to remove it as a trustee and work around the U.S. court ruling that triggered a default on July 30.

The bank declined to comment on the announcement. A U.S. court order prevented Bank of New York Mellon from distributing \$539 million in interest

payments on Argentina's behalf on July 30, triggering the country's second default in 13 years.

The court order stemmed from a long battle between Argentina a group of U.S. investors who have been trying to recover the full value of bonds the country defaulted on in 2001, about \$1.5 billion. The government has said it cannot pay those investors without compensating the majority of creditors who accepted lower-valued bonds.

The government sent a bill to Congress last week that would work around the court order by removing BNY Mellon as trustee and replacing it with state-owned Banco de la Nacion, which would not be under the jurisdiction of the U.S. courts.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Griesa, who issued the order requiring Argentina to pay the holdout creditors, has said the government's plan to evade his order would be illegal. □

Global Issues:

Even if attacked, airline could be liable in crash

DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

ROTTERDAM (AP) - Families of passengers who were on the Malaysia Airlines plane shot down over Ukraine are starting to sort through the long process of gaining compensation for their loss. Officials in the Netherlands, where the majority of Flight 17 victims lived, say that Malaysia Airlines has been making \$50,000 payments to the families without admitting any wrongdoing in the crash.

say it would be almost impossible to collect damages from Russia or the pro-Russian rebels accused of shooting down the plane with a far-reaching surface-to-air missile. Malaysia Airlines will be left as the prime — maybe the only — defendant, and lawsuits are likely to hinge on the plane's planned route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur on July 17.

Malaysian officials have said that the route over eastern Ukraine was

Flight 17 was shot down.

But some aviation lawyers say that the families could have a strong case by arguing that Malaysia Airlines should have stopped flying over eastern Ukraine after the rebels shot down military jets earlier in July.

"The idea that somebody else was equally as stupid as they were is not that good of an argument," said Jonathan Reiter, a New York personal-injury lawyer who has handled many aviation cases.

have often received higher awards than families in countries such as Malaysia, where the courts usually stick to the treaty limit, lawyers say.

"You could have two people sitting next to each other who may have the same income. (The family of) one gets multi millions, and the other one gets \$75,000," said Justin Green, an aviation attorney whose firm represented families of victims of Pan Am 103, bombed over Scotland in

chef, was finishing a meeting with two accountants to go over the restaurant's books. He was about to start his next shift in the kitchen. "It is overwhelming. There is just a lot to arrange," he said, choosing his words carefully. "My family is really stepping in to help." As for suing the airline, Fan said, "I'm not focused on that right now." Harun Calehr, whose two nephews were on Flight 17, said that even an initial partial payment from Malaysia Airlines was emotionally taxing.

"My mother and my sister were thinking that it is blood money," said Calehr, who was born in the Netherlands and now practices law — including aviation law — in Houston. "I told them, 'This is not profiting from the boys' demise. This is your right.' The only accountability you can get from a company is financial compensation, and maybe an apology." In the months since Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 disappeared, Steve Wang, a Chinese citizen whose mother was on the plane, decided to seek more than the \$174,000 limit. It is a form of leverage.

"What I need most is not the compensation," Wang said. "What I really need is (to know) what happened to the plane — where is it now? So we want to push them to search in a faster way." After many crashes, lawsuits are filed against the airlines, the aircraft manufacturer, and the makers of aviation systems on the plane. In the Air Algerie case, Spain's Swiftair, which was operating the flight, could be a target. Flight 17 is different — a civilian airliner shot out of the sky — but if families can't sue Russia or the rebels suspected of firing the missile, there is precedent for finding an airline liable after its plane was shot down.

In 1983, a Soviet fighter jet downed Korean Air Lines Flight 007, a Boeing 747 jumbo jet bound from New York to Seoul via Anchorage, Alaska. □



In this Aug. 12, 2014 photo, Kevin Fan poses for a photo at Asian Glories restaurant in Rotterdam, Netherlands. Fan is grappling with the job of running two Rotterdam restaurants that were owned by his parents, who, along with his grandmother, were on the Malaysia Airlines plane shot down over Ukraine. Fan's father, who went by Popo, was the chef at Asian Glories; his mother Jenny was the hostess. (AP Photo/Toby Sterling)

Such payments may create goodwill, lawyers say, but they are not likely to discourage some families from seeking more than the amount promised under an international treaty — about \$174,000.

Since the early days of commercial aviation, international agreements have governed compensation for crash victims. It is a no-fault system — the airline pays a standard compensation even if is blameless. Under a treaty called the Montreal Convention, families can sue for more if the airline or another party was negligent.

Aviation-accident lawyers

deemed safe by international aviation authorities as long as the plane flew higher than 32,000 feet — below that, Ukraine had closed the airspace, presumably because of the threat posed by pro-Russian rebels armed with shoulder-held anti-aircraft guns, which have a limited range. While the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration had prohibited flights over the Crimean Peninsula, the U.S. ban did not extend to eastern Ukraine until after the shoot-down. And, Malaysian officials have noted, other airlines continued to fly the same route, even on the day that

Families of those on this year's major air crashes — Flight 17; Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which disappeared as it flew from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing; the crash of TransAsia Airways Flight 222 in stormy weather in Taiwan; and the crash of Air Algerie Flight 5017 in Mali — could be waiting years for compensation from the airlines and their insurers.

Under the Montreal treaty, lawsuits can be filed in the home country of the victim, the country where the airline is based, where the ticket was bought or where the plane was headed. Americans and Europeans

1988.

For some relatives of those on Flight 17, the pain is still too raw to decide whether to go to court.

In the Netherlands, Kevin Fan is grappling with the job of running two Rotterdam restaurants that were owned by his parents, who, along with his grandmother, died in the crash. Fan's father, who went by Popo, was the chef at Asian Glories; his mother, Jenny, was the hostess.

On a recent day, several bunches of fresh-cut flowers had been left as a memorial outside the small restaurant. The 30-year-old Fan, an acclaimed young



Digene Zimmerman is Crowned Miss Universe Aruba

PALM BEACH - Digene Zimmerman was crowned Miss Universe Aruba over the weekend at yet another exciting and glamorous pageant. At the same event was chosen Miss World Aruba 2014: Joitza Hernandez who will represent her country at Miss World 2014 in London. Digene Zimmerman will represent Aruba at Miss Universe 2014 where she will compete to succeed the current titleholder, Gabriela Isler of Venezuela. Under the direction of New Star Promotion Organization since 1992, Aruba has been accumulating positive results, with Taryn Mansell placing as first runner-up in 1996 at Miss Universe (Alicia Machado's year) and Tamara Scaroni, becoming the first Aruban to receive the Miss Congeniality award in 2000; representatives placing as semi-finalists in 1990, 1996, 2002, along with a first runner-up



in 2001 at Miss World; and another semifinalist in Miss International 2001, three Best National Costume



awards in 2000, 2007, 2008 and a first runner-up placement in 1994 at Miss International. In 2011, the New Star Promotion acquired the franchise for Miss Earth. In 2012, the organization gave up the Miss Universe franchise. Stefanie Guillen Evangelista, 25, represented Aruba at Miss Universe 2013 in Moscow, Russia. She was unplaced. □



Loyal Visitors Honored at the Costa Linda Beach Resort



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitor of Aruba, at the Costa Linda Beach Resort, as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The

symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Stu-

art and Karen Fishkin from Syosset, New York, and Neil and Lisa Van Doren and their son Matthew Van Doren from Spotswood, New Jersey. All the honorees are loyal members of the Costa Linda and they love

Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and Aruba feels like a second home, the people are like a family to them and Costa Linda is their home away from home. The cer-

tificates were presented by Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Miriam Rodriguez representing the Costa Linda Beach Resort and family members of the honorees. □

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PALM BEACH - A sumptuous three-course dinner for just AWG. 45,- per person sounds too good to be true. It gets even better when this person has a Fun Miles card with 1000 miles on it, because then the price is just AWG. 25,-. Read on and get excited: the Restaurant Week should not be missed at any price. The event is from August 27 till September 3.

The Restaurant Week is an initiative of the Aruba Wine and Dine (AWD) group. The six restaurants of AWD include Salt & Pepper, Tango Argentine Grill, Fishes & More, Hadicurari, MooMba and Café the Plaza are offering three-course dinners at an almost ridiculously low price, showcasing the

restaurants and allowing the chefs to wow his or her clientele. The threshold is low, so come and try one of the above-mentioned

restaurants if you have never been to them or visit them again to get your taste buds going into overdrive once more.



Fishes & More in the Arawak Garden enjoys fame in the culinary world of Aruba; guests often rave about the restaurant's super tasty dishes and good service. You can try them out 'on a budget' during the Restaurant Week. But first, look at the menu: appetizer options are either

Black Tiger Shrimp, served in a creamy garlic sauce with Parmesan cheese or the Arawak Garden salad. Then one can choose between the red snapper with a skewer of shrimp, served with a Creole sauce or the Fettuccine Alfredo with chicken breast. Dessert is either a hot chocolate sundae or Apfelstrudel à la mode. Delicious!

Suggested wine specials during the Restaurant Week are the Banfi San Angelo Pinot Grigio or the Banfi Col di Sasso Cabernet.

Fishes & More is one of the terrific restaurants in the Arawak Garden, which is located across from the Occidental Resort. There is live music every night of the week, there is evening shopping in the various kiosks and there is a piano bar called Sopranos that will take good care of your nightlife. □



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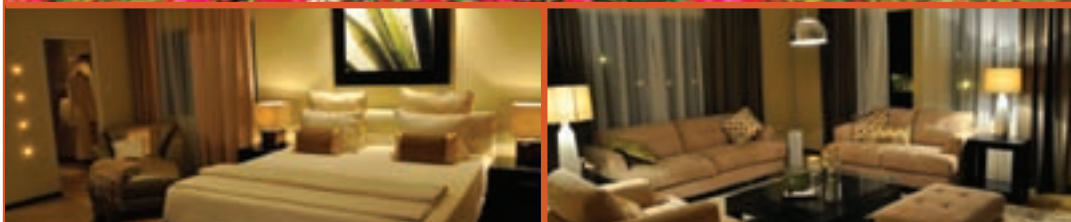
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PALM BEACH - As we are always busy in the high season, says Warren Stanley, General Manager

De Palm Corporation, we decided to go out for community dinner with all our drivers, operations, maintenance and reservations people midyear, delivering Christmas in July, and Amazonia lends itself perfectly to everybody's taste and appetite.



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Pictured here the De Palm crew demonstrating their jest for life and camaraderie, over delicious food and drink at Amazonia! ☐





United States' Anthony Davis (14), of the New Orleans Pelicans, dunks over Brazil's Nene Hilario, of the Washington Wizards, during the first half of an exhibition basketball game Saturday, Aug. 16, 2014, in Chicago.

Associated Press

Davis, USA beat Slovenia in basketball exhibition

BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

LAS PALMAS, Canary Islands (AP) — Mike Krzyzewski's big men had barely finished pushing around Slovenia when he was asked how they would match up with Spain's imposing frontcourt.

"I'm not going to compare. I haven't seen Spain play," Krzyzewski said. "If we play Spain, it's a long way away. So I'm just concentrating on U.S. and trying to get better."

There's plenty of time, but his big guys are looking pretty good so far.

Anthony Davis scored 18 points and teamed with Kenneth Faried to dominate the inside, leading the U.S. national team to a 101-71 victory over Slovenia on Tuesday in its final exhibition game before the FIBA World Cup of Basketball.

Continued on Page 18



TEEN SPIRIT

15-year-old American CiCi Bellis stuns No. 12 seed at U.S. Open

Catherine Bellis, of the United States, reacts after a point against Dominika Cibulkova, of Slovakia, during the first round of the 2014 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2014, in New York.

Associated Press

Page 19

Basketball exhibition

Continued from Page 17

Fariel finished with 14 points for the Americans, who next head to Bilbao, Spain, for their tournament opener Saturday against Finland. The defending world champions also will face Turkey, New Zealand, the Dominican Republic and Ukraine in pool play. A matchup with Spain, and its big men of Pau Gasol, Marc Gasol and Serge Ibaka, wouldn't come until the gold-medal game on Sept. 14 in Madrid. The Americans picked a bigger team than usual after years of playing small, perhaps with Spain in mind, and appear capable of looking eye-to-eye with anyone. "We just try to make sure that whatever we do, we do together, because we know it's going to be tough in the tournament," Davis said.

The Americans weren't particularly impressive throughout the last of their four warmup games, their first since picking their final 12-man roster on Saturday. But they were aggressive, with Davis and Fariel wearing out the Slovenians — and even hooking up on a rare big-to-big alley-oop when Davis threw down Fariel's lob pass for a 65-39 lead midway through the third quarter. Kyrie Irving added 13 points while starting at point guard for the Americans ahead of Derrick Rose, and they played together at times. Rose had three points. Rudy Gay and Klay Thompson each scored 11. The U.S. missed five of its first six free-throw attempts but got plenty more chances, finishing 29 of 46 at the line. Slovenia was just 10 of 17. Phoenix Suns star Goran Dragic had only six points on 3-of-11 shooting as one of the many Slovenians saddled with foul problems. His brother, Zoran, led Slovenia with 16 points.



U.S. forward/center Anthony Davis, left, of the New Orleans Pelicans, watches teammate Kenneth Faried, of the Denver Nuggets, post up during basketball practice at the Brooklyn Nets training facility in East Rutherford, N.J., Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2014.

Associated Press

Slovenia will remain here to play in Group D, along with Lithuania, Angola, Australia, Mexico and Korea. The teams could meet again if both reach the knockout round, as Groups C and D are on the same side of the bracket and advance to Barcelona. The U.S. led by six after one quarter, and then scored the first 10 of the second to open a 34-18 lead against

the Slovenians, who struggled to go consecutive possessions without fouling. The lead was cut to 46-35 by halftime but the Americans quickly reopened a big cushion in the second half. Slovenia was coming off a victory over Lithuania, which had been rolling through its exhibition schedule, but couldn't stay with the Americans, who

had six players in double figures. "We have high, high goals and I really ask for my players to win every game," Slovenia coach Jure Zdovc said. "Tonight I was hoping that we can and I believe that we can play better and to make better resistance against the team of United States." There were elaborate pre-game and halftime entertainment performances inside a lively Gran Canaria Arena, with enough costumes, dancers and acrobats to fill a circus routine. The game itself wasn't quite as pretty, the frequency of the fouls occasionally preventing much of a flow. But the Americans worked through that with a superior effort by their big men, who consistently worked to keep balls alive on offense and contest shots on the other end, getting the U.S. guards out for fast breaks. The U.S. finished with a 50-22 advantage in points in the paint. □

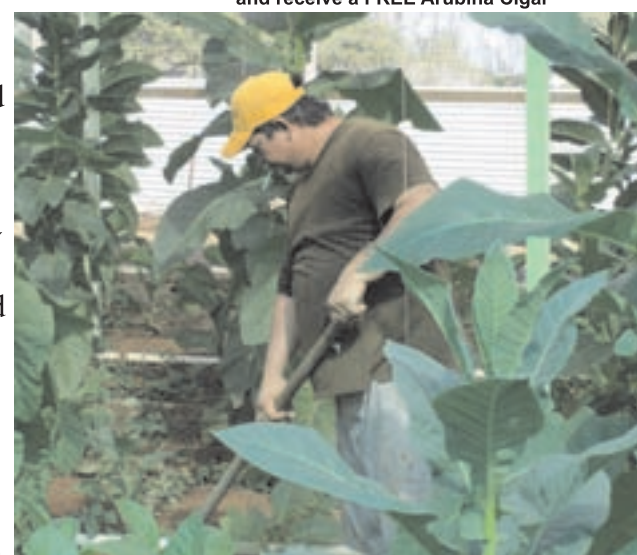
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also



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CiCi Bellis, 15, youngest U.S. Open winner since '96

HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — While 15-year-old American CiCi Bellis was in the process of stunning a Grand Slam finalist to become the youngest player to win a U.S. Open match since 1996, her father did his best to conceal his emotions courtside.

Like many a teen, CiCi has strict rules for Dad in public — even if his 1,208th-ranked daughter is pulling out a back-and-forth 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 victory Tuesday over 12th-seeded Dominika Cibulkova in the first round at Flushing Meadows.

"I'm told I cannot sigh and I cannot move or say anything (because) that distracts her, so I just have to sit there like a Sphinx and just smile and pray," the elder Bellis, Gordon, explained with a deadpan delivery.

"She hears me when I sigh. So I can't sigh."

Ah, yes, the joys of raising kids. And make no mistake, Bellis is a kid. She is homeschooled and about to start 10th grade. Her first memory of the U.S. Open is watching on TV while Maria Sharapova played. She likes to hang out at the mall with friends back home in California. Asked whether she's a fan of pop star Justin Bieber, Bellis answered, "I used to like him when I was younger, a couple years ago."

Her victory was the most surprising of the afternoon session on Day 2 of the year's last Grand Slam tournament. Another American teen, Taylor Townsend, was set to face two-time defending champion Serena Williams at night, after Roger Federer beat Marinko Matosevic 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (4) with Michael Jordan sitting in Federer's guest

box in Arthur Ashe Stadium. "Growing up, he was my big sporting idol," Federer said. "Having him here is unbelievably special."

Aside from the Williams sisters, American tennis fans have not had much reason to cheer for their own in the latter stages of major tournaments in recent years. That's why the occasional run by a young U.S. player — think Melanie Oudin, wearing "Believe" on her sneakers in 2009 — stirs interest at Flushing Meadows.

"Believing was the No. 1 thing that I had to do today," said Bellis, whose nickname CiCi is derived from the initials of her first and middle names, Catherine Cartan. "That's what my coach told me before the match also: Just go out there and believe that you can win."

Bellis is still young enough that she plans on playing in the junior tournament in New York. She lost in the third round of that event a year ago; she lost in the first round of the Wimbledon girls' tournament last month.

But on Tuesday, there she was in front of a supportive, overflowing crowd on Court 6 at Flushing Meadows, taking it to Cibulkova, the runner-up at the Australian Open in January. "I went into the match thinking it was going to be such a great experience," said Bellis, whose rapid-fire sentences tend to finish with a gurgle of laughter, "but I never thought I would come out on top winning."

Neither did her parents. Her mother, Lori, didn't attend the match because she gets too nervous watching in person, Gordon Bellis said. So Lori stayed at their hotel, getting updates via



Catherine Bellis, of the United States, returns a shot against Dominika Cibulkova, of Slovakia, during the first round of the 2014 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2014, in New York.

Associated Press

text from Gordon.

"She asked how bad it was going in the first set. And so I told her (CiCi) actually won the first set. She couldn't believe that," Gordon said. "We were just thankful that she didn't get double-bageled. That was the first objective."

After trailing 3-1 in the third set — "kind of a bummer," Bellis would say later — she came back to even things, and then broke the 25-year-old Cibulkova in the final game. When it ended, Bellis crouched at the baseline and pumped her fists, then ran over to the stands for congratulatory hugs.

"I didn't expect her to play so aggressive today. I thought she's kind of a player who's just putting the ball back and running around," Cibulkova said. "That didn't happen today. She was really aggressive on the court and that may be surprised me in the first set."

Bellis was making her main-draw tour-level debut, having earned a wild-card invitation from the U.S. Tennis Association by winning the USTA Girls' 18s National Championship, the youngest to do since Lindsay Davenport also won it at 15 in 1991.

Not since Anna Kournikova was 15 in 1996 had someone so young won a match at the U.S. Open. And not since Mary Joe Fernandez was that age in 1986 had an American done it.

"Now it's time for her to re-focus, not get too excited about this first round. Just get back to business," said Fernandez, an ESPN analyst.

Next up for Bellis is a second-round match against 48th-ranked Zarina Diyas of Kazakhstan. And Gordon Bellis said Lori might decide to attend that one. No word on what sort of rules Mom will have to follow. □

NL Capsules

Holliday's hit lifts Cardinals over Pirates 3-2

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Matt Holliday's two-run single in the seventh inning off Jared Hughes capped a late rally, and the Cardinals beat the Pirates. Jon Jay's pinch-hit single tied the game with two outs in the seventh and Holliday followed with a sharp single to left off Hughes (6-4) to score Jay and Matt Carpenter. John Lackey (13-8) worked out of trouble early to work seven innings and pick up his second victory with the Cardinals after arriving in a trade from Boston on July 31. Trevor Rosenthal gave up a leadoff home run in the ninth to Andrew McCutchen but held on to



St. Louis Cardinals' Jon Jay (19) is greeted by Matt Carpenter as he scores in the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates on Monday, Aug. 25, 2014, in Pittsburgh. Jay scored from second behind Matt Carpenter on a single by Matt Holliday.

Associated Press

earn his 39th save. Pedro Alvarez hit his 18th homer in the second off Lackey, but the Pirates managed little after that to fall. **PHILLIES 3, NATIONALS 2** **PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — A.J. Burnett struck out 12 in seven innings and Cody Asche and Carlos Ruiz homered to lead the Phillies to a victory over the Nationals. Domonic Brown had two hits and an RBI for Philadelphia, which won for the fourth time in five games. Wilson Ramos and Anthony Rendon homered for NL East-leading Washington, which lost for just the second time in 14 games. Burnett (7-14) won for the first time since the All-Star break, allowing one run on three hits with just one walk. The right-hander entered leading the majors in walks with 76. Tanner Roark (12-8) gave up two runs on five hits in six innings and lost for just the second time in his last nine starts. Roark has a 2.25 ERA over that stretch. **ROCKIES 3, GIANTS 2** **SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Tyler Matzek struck out seven in seven innings to end a five-start losing

streak, and Colorado capitalized on San Francisco's mistakes. The Rockies have won four straight in San Francisco for the first time in club history. In his 14th major league start and first against the Giants, Matzek (3-9) won for the first time since beating Pittsburgh on July 26. The rookie left-hander also won for the first time in eight road appearances and seven starts after beginning 0-5. Matzek outdueled Jake Peavy (2-4), who won his previous two starts following three straight losses after he was acquired in a trade with Boston on July 26. Justin Morneau and Corey Dickerson hit sacrifice flies for the Rockies, who earned their fourth road win in 27 games since sweeping a three-game series at AT&T Park from June 13-15. San Francisco manager Bruce Bochy was ejected in the eighth by plate umpire Doug Eddings for arguing a called third strike on Buster Posey. LaTroy Hawkins finished for his 21st save in 22 opportunities. **BREWERS 10, PADRES 1** **SAN DIEGO (AP)** — Ryan Braun and Aramis Ramirez homered to back Kyle Lohse's six effective innings as Milwaukee routed San Diego for its fifth straight road win. Lohse (12-7) allowed a run and four hits in his first start since spraining his right ankle on Aug. 13. He beat the Padres for the fourth straight time. Eric Stults (6-14) was charged with four runs and nine hits in five innings, snapping his three-game winning streak. Ramirez and Gerardo Parra had three RBIs apiece. Braun, Ramirez and Carlos Gomez each had three hits to help the first-place Brewers remain 1 1/2 games ahead of St. Louis in the NL Central. □

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AL Capsules

Orioles hit 5 HRs in 9-1 win over Rays

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Delmon Young, J.J. Hardy and Chris Davis homered in succession during a six-run fifth inning, and the Baltimore Orioles cruised past the Tampa Bay Rays 9-1 Monday night to end a three-game losing streak.

Baltimore hit five homers in all, four off rookie Jake Odorizzi (9-11). Nick Markakis and Steve Pearce delivered back-to-back shots in the third to spark the Orioles to their ninth win in 13 games against Tampa Bay this season.

After totaling four runs and 13 hits in three road losses to the Chicago Cubs, the Orioles got 14 hits against a Tampa Bay staff that had a major league-best 2.28 ERA since the All-Star break.

Baltimore's Chris Tillman (11-5) yielded an unearned run and three hits in seven innings.

YANKEES 6, ROYALS 1 KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Derek Jeter drove in two runs in his final scheduled trip to Kauffman Stadium, backing a sharp outing from Michael Pineda and helping the Yankees beat the Royals for their fifth straight win.

Jacoby Ellsbury drove in a run in the seventh inning with the 1,000th hit of his career, then added a two-run homer in the ninth. Stephen Drew and Martin Prado also homered for New York.

Pineda (3-2) gave up a solo shot to Mike Moustakas leading off the third inning,

but that was about it in his third game back from the disabled list. Pineda struck out five without a walk in 6 1-3 innings to win for the first time since beating the Cubs on April 16.

James Shields (12-7) allowed six runs over 6 2-3 innings for Kansas City.

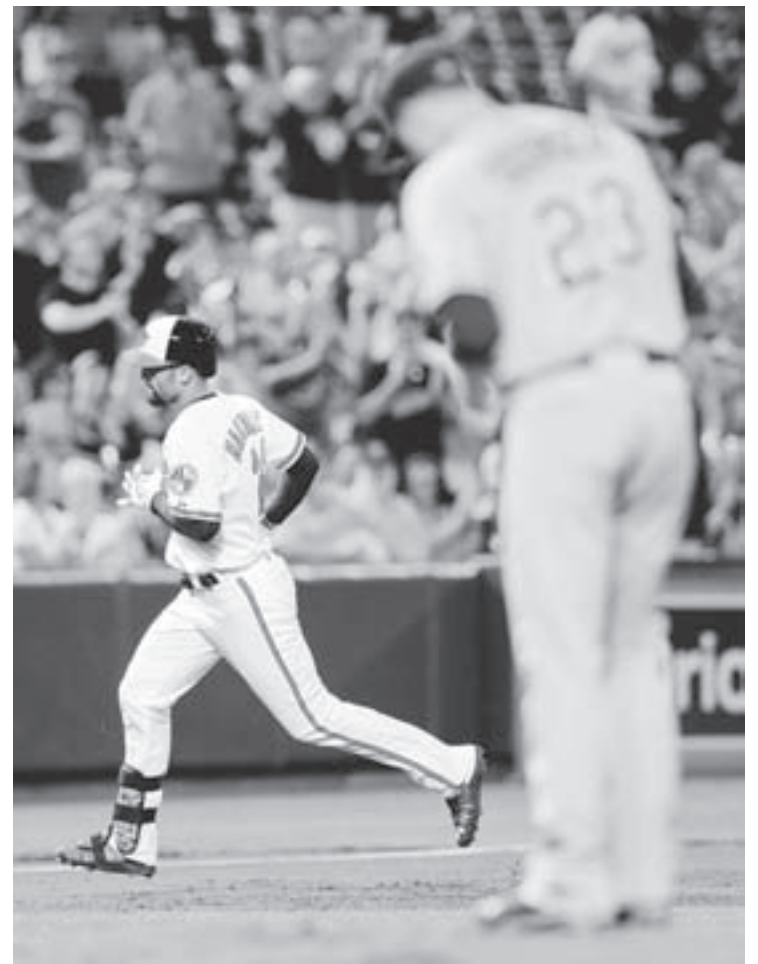
further behind St. Louis and first-place Milwaukee in the NL Central race.

MARLINS 7, ANGELS 1 ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Giancarlo Stanton upstaged Mike Trout with a three-run homer in the first regular-season showdown between two of baseball's brightest young stars, leading Miami to a comfortable

victory over Los Angeles.

Jarred Cosart (2-1) allowed a run and seven hits over 7 2-3 innings. He struck out four in his fourth outing since he was acquired from Houston at the July 31 trade deadline. The right-hander, who was 9-7 with the Astros, lost his shutout bid in the eighth on an RBI double by Kole Calhoun.

Wade LeBlanc (0-1) was charged with six runs and seven hits in 3 1-3 innings as a replacement for Garrett Richards, out for the season because of a knee injury that occurred last week in Boston. It was LeBlanc's first big league start since May 6, 2013, for the Marlins.



Baltimore Orioles' Nick Markakis, left, rounds the bases with a two-run home run off Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Jake Odorizzi in the third inning of a baseball game, Monday, Aug. 25, 2014, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

Rangers' Choo Shin-Soo to have season-ending elbow surgery

SEATTLE (AP) — The Texas Rangers' South Korean outfielder Choo Shin-soo is scheduled for surgery to remove a bone spur from his left elbow and will miss the rest of the season.

Choo was placed on the 15-day disabled list Monday, and the operation is set for Sept. 15, but it could be moved up to Friday if his illness subsides. He was experiencing flu-like symptoms when the team was scheduled to fly to Seattle, prompting the Rangers to put him on the DL immediately.

The 32-year-old Choo struggled in his first season with last-place Texas after



This book cover image released by Grand Central shows "Mean Streak," by Sandra Brown.

Associated Press

signing a \$130 million, seven-year contract when he was a free agent last win-

ter. He batted .242 with 13 home runs and 40 RBIs in 123 games.

The Angels slipped back into a tie for the AL West lead with Oakland.

ATHLETICS 8, ASTROS 2 HOUSTON (AP) — Jeff Samardzija pitched eight solid innings and Josh Donaldson drove in three runs to lead Oakland over Houston.

Samardzija (4-3) allowed six hits, two runs and tied a season high with 10 strikeouts to bounce back from a two-game skid in which he yielded 11 runs combined.

The right-hander was 2-7 with the Chicago Cubs before an early July trade.

Josh Reddick hit a two-run homer and Donaldson had three hits after sitting out Sunday with a knee injury. Donaldson doubled twice for his first extra-base hits and RBIs in his last nine games.

Got Energy?

By: Dr Carlos Viana

Everyone today seems to be concerned about energy. Our automobiles will not travel far without it. For our primary transportation to work, we know that raw petroleum must be refined to make gasoline or diesel fuel.

This produces a form of energy which moves our vehicles. In our bodies, glucose, amino acids, and fats from our food are the raw materials that must be processed by our cells into fuel. Your body's primary manufactured fuel is Adenosine Triphosphate (ATP), which provides the energy for our body's movement and vital functions.

Even with a good diet, your body may need additional nutritional supplementation of vitamin C, magnesium, zinc, lecithin or choline and Ribose to produce ATP or energy. Ribose is a simple sugar that is the backbone of ribo-nucleic acid (RNA) and deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), the materials our body uses to pass on our genetic code from one generation to the next. DNA and RNA are also necessary daily to regenerate and repair our body's cells.

A healthy body can manufacture its own ribose from dietary sugars; however this requires a lot of energy and is a slow process. Diabetics, individuals with chronic degenerative diseases and people who lead extremely active or stressful lives

are not naturally producing sufficient quantities of ribose to fully aid the body in these vital processes.

ATP moves nutrients into and waste out of the cells and gives our muscles strength or energy to move and also to relax. ATP also detoxifies your body and produces signals that stimulate hormones. Without fuel your car does not move. Similarly, without an abundant supply of ATP your body becomes stiff, and joints become sore as in arthritis.

Lupus, a disease which includes muscle loss or wasting, Chronic Fatigue Syndromes, cataracts, and autoimmune disorders like fibromyalgia are all symptoms of a deficiency of ATP due to a chronic lack of ribose. In our clinic I have seen an improvement in muscle soreness, and cramping from people with these and other conditions as well as from intensive athletic workouts by adjusting their diets and adding quality supplements, especially Ribose. In older individuals we see an improvement in muscle health and in all groups we see a reduction of debilitating fatigue.

As a board certified clinical nutritionist, I have also prescribed Ribose to heart deficiency patients that could not climb more than a couple of steps. The heart, as a muscle responds positively to Ribose supplemen-

tation that increases ATP in muscles. ATP contributes to a measurable increase in cardiovascular strength. After a week on ribose supplementation, patients have reported being able to comfortably climb a flight of stairs again.

A good diet for one's metabolic type and supplementation with D-Ribose has been positively shown to improved health and fitness. Not only people with cardiovascular problems, but athletes who deplete their energy reserves can benefit from Ribose supplementation to reduce training cramping and soreness. Reports have shown Ribose can even lower blood sugar levels and is also known to alleviate altitude sickness and Pre Menstrual cramping.

Muscle stiffness or pain results from not only physical exertion but is generally believed to be a symptom of aging. Instead of pain medication I first do an analysis with blood or other test to check the health of the person and then make sure they are drinking sufficient amounts of water. We then recommend acupuncture treatments to relieve stress and relax muscles naturally. We also use selenium and Vitamin E to help to maintain good health and, protect the integrity of muscle cells. Antioxidants, work to scavenge free radicals that damage muscle cells under stress.



Get the Point! Stiffness, fatigue or exhaustion can be an obstruction to a happy and healthy life. D-Ribose which has been shown to help your body make the energy it needs for improved health and fitness. Looking to nature and technology for new and better ways to fuel our vehicles, homes and economy is important for our health and our planet. Finding new and improved ways to improve the quality of your body's energy source is an important place to start.

Instead of soft drinks or endless cups of coffee, to keep you going, a nutritional evaluation can help you learn how to eliminate waste and make more efficient fuel for your body. Come in for an energy assessment.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board

Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270, Web Site:

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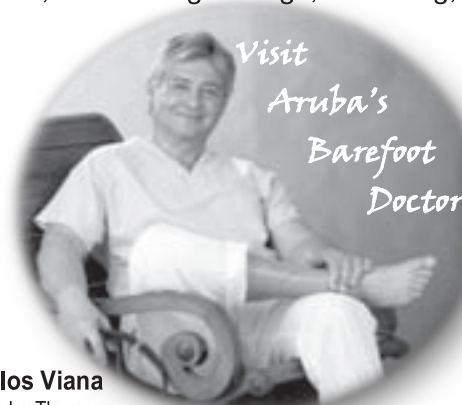
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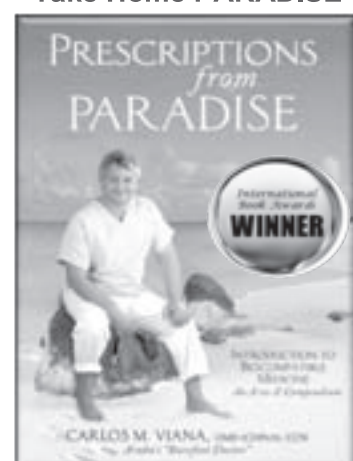
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Study: Social media users shy away from opinions

ANNE FLAHERTY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — People on Facebook and Twitter say they are less likely to share their opinions on hot-button issues, even when they are offline, according to a surprising new survey by the Pew Research Center.

The study, done in conjunction with Rutgers University in New Jersey, challenges the view of social media as a vehicle for debate by suggesting that sites like Facebook and Twitter might actually encourage self-censorship. Researchers said they detect what they call the "spiral of silence" phenomenon: Unless people know their audience agrees, they are likely to shy away from discussing anything controversial.

"People do not tend to be using social media for this type of important political discussion. And if anything, it may actually be removing conversation from the public sphere," said Keith Hampton, a communications professor at Rutgers University who helped conduct the study.

The survey was conducted shortly after National Security Agency Edward Snowden acknowledged leaking classified intelligence that exposed widespread government surveillance of Americans' phone and email records. Hampton said the Snowden case provided researchers with a concrete example of a major national issue that divided Americans and dominated news coverage.

Of the 1,801 adults surveyed, 86 percent they would be willing to discuss their views about government surveillance if it came up at various in-person scenarios, such as at a public meeting, at work or at a restaurant with friends. But just 42 percent of Facebook or Twitter users said they would be willing to post online about it.

What's more, the typical Facebook user — someone who logs onto the site a few times per day — was



This May 21, 2013 file photo shows an iPhone in Washington with Twitter, Facebook, and other apps. Tired of that friend or relative who won't stop posting or tweeting political opinions? Online loudmouths may be annoying, but a new survey suggests they are in the minority. In a report released Tuesday, the Pew Research Center found that most people who regularly use social media sites were actually less likely to share their opinions, even offline.

Associated Press

actually half as likely to discuss the Snowden case at a public meeting as a non-Facebook user. Someone who goes on Twitter a few times per day was one-quarter as likely to share opinions in the workplace compared with those who never use Twitter.

Only when a person felt that their Facebook network agreed with their opinion were they twice as likely to join a site discussion on the issue, the survey found.

Another finding was that social media didn't make it easier for people to share opinions they wouldn't otherwise share. Of the 14 percent of Americans unwilling to discuss the Snowden case with others in person, fewer than one-half of 1 percent were willing to discuss it on social media.

Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Research Center Internet Project, said it's possible that social media actually sensitize people to different opinions.

"Because they use social

media, they may know more about the depth of disagreement over the issue in their wide circle of contacts," he said. "This might make them hesitant to speak up either online or offline for fear of starting

an argument, offending or even losing a friend."

While many people might say keeping political debate off Facebook is a matter of tact, Hampton said there is a concern that a person's fear of offend-

ing someone on social media stifles debate.

"A society where people aren't able to share their opinions openly and gain from understanding alternative perspectives is a polarized society," he said. □

TiVo to make version for those without cable

NEW YORK (AP) -- Here's a sign more households are going without cable or satellite TV: TiVo Inc. is making a digital video recorder just for so-called cord-cutters. The TiVo Roamio OTA will cost \$50, compared with \$200 for the regular model. The OTA version records free, over-the-air TV signals and lacks slots for cable service cards. For both models, you need a \$15-a-month subscription to TiVo service, which provides programming data and other necessities.

The OTA model will be available starting Sept. 14 at select Best Buy stores.

A 2013 study from GfK estimated that 19 percent of U.S. TV households had broadcast-only reception, up from 14 percent in 2010. Those figures include people who have dropped cable and those who never had it, something common for younger adults.

TiVo isn't giving up on pay-TV subscribers, which still represent the majority of households. The company has two premium models

that work only with a cable or satellite subscription. The \$400 Roamio Plus and the \$600 Roamio Pro have more storage and let you record six shows at once, rather than four on the cheaper models. The premium models also let you stream recorded shows on cellphones and tablets without additional hardware.

The \$200 base model is the only one that works with both pay-TV services and antennas for over-the-air broadcasts. □

Another milestone:

S&P 500 closes trading above 2,000

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

It was a big round-number day for the stock market. The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed a hair above 2,000 points Tuesday, 16 years after it closed above 1,000 points for the first time.

The milestone added to the market's gains from the day before and extended the stock index's record-shattering run this year.

The S&P 500 index, a widely followed barometer of the stock market, has closed at a new high 30 times this year. By this time last year, it had done so 25 times.

The index briefly rose past 2,000 on Monday, but closed just below that level. It still set a record-high close in the process.

"There's perhaps a small

marks comes as investors cheered new indications that the economy is strengthening, setting the stage for stronger company earnings.

Major U.S. indexes began in positive territory in pre-market trading Tuesday. That trend held as investors began to digest the latest economic reports.

The Conference Board said Tuesday that its consumer confidence index rose this month to the highest point in nearly seven years. A separate report showed that orders of durable manufactured goods surged by a record 22.6 percent in July, thanks to a jump in aircraft sales. A third report showed U.S. home prices rose in June, although at a slower pace. Stocks opened slightly higher and remained in the

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 29.83 points, or 0.2 percent, to 17,106.70. The Nasdaq composite gained 13.29 points, or 0.3 percent, to 4,570.64.

The major U.S. indexes are riding a three-week streak of weekly gains and are up for the year.

The string of record highs this year isn't unusual when a market is recovering from a downturn, said Kate Warne, an investment strategist at Edward Jones.

In the past, once stocks have hit a new high after a downturn, they have continued higher for about two years, on average, she said. The first time the S&P 500 hit a new high after the financial crisis was March 2013. So this year's record run is still within the average range.



Trader Edward McCarthy, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed a hair above 2,000 points Tuesday, 16 years after it closed above 1,000 points for the first time.
(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

psychological boost when you get over such a significant price level," said Cameron Hinds, regional chief investment officer at Wells Fargo Private Bank.

U.S. stocks, in the midst of a five-year rally, have surged in the final weeks of the summer after dipping earlier this month on concerns about geopolitical tensions in Russia and the Middle East.

The latest string of shattered market bench-

green the rest of the day. The S&P crossed above 2,000 points early on, and hovered at or above the mark as it approached the close of regular trading.

Moments before the close it dipped below 2,000, then inched up just above. The S&P 500 rose 2.10 points, or 0.1 percent, to end at 2,000.02. Seven of the 10 sectors in the S&P 500 index gained, led by energy stocks. Utilities declined the most.

"Markets don't climb sharply. They tend to climb slowly, and that's probably good news for a continued climb in the future," Warne said. The Dow also has put up some big numbers this year, notching 15 new closing highs. That trails the 30 it racked up by this time a year ago.

While the market is setting records, many stock watchers believe equities remain fairly valued, though not cheap. □



A shopper checks out with her lumber at a Home Depot in Boston. The Conference Board reported on consumer confidence in August on Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2014.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

US consumer confidence near 7-year high: Survey

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumer confidence this month reached its highest point in nearly seven years, boosted by strong job gains.

The Conference Board said Tuesday that its confidence index rose for a fourth straight month to 92.4 from 90.3 in July. The August reading is the highest since October 2007, two months before the Great Recession officially began.

The optimism suggests that Americans will be more likely to spend in the months ahead, an important boost to the economy. Consumer spending drives about 70 percent of U.S. economic activity. "Enthusiastic households are more likely to open their wallets in the coming months and support solid output growth in the second half of the year," said Gregory Daco, an economist at Oxford Economics. The survey found that Americans' outlook on the job market brightened considerably. The percentage of respondents who said jobs were "plentiful" rose to 18.2 percent from 15.6 percent in July. That's the highest level since 2008. Consumers' perceptions generally track the unemployment rate over time. The "substantial improvement in August points to another strong employment report next week," said Ted Wieseman, an economist at Morgan Stanley. The government's jobs report for August, to

be released next week, will show whether hiring was strong for a seventh straight month.

Steady and solid hiring this year has provided more Americans with paychecks to spend. Employers have added an average of 230,000 jobs a month this year, up from about 195,000 a month in 2013. Average monthly job gains since February have produced the best six-month stretch since 2006.

The unemployment rate ticked up to 6.2 percent in July from 6.1 percent in June. But that was because more Americans began looking for work. Most didn't immediately find jobs, but the increase in people looking for work suggests that they are more confident about their prospects.

Lower gasoline prices have also likely helped. The average price of a gallon of gas nationwide Monday was \$3.44, the lowest in nearly six months, according to AAA. That leaves Americans with more money to spend on other goods and services. This month, the percentage of Americans who said they plan to buy a car reached its highest level in five months.

Confidence bottomed during the Great Recession in February 2009 at 25.3 before beginning an upward swing. While the index still hasn't returned to full health, it is well above last year's average of 72.3. In the 20 years before the downturn, the index averaged nearly 102. □

Judge rejecting proposal in HP Autonomy suit

QUENTIN HARDY

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SAN FRANCISCO - The long fight over Hewlett-Packard's \$11.1 billion purchase of Autonomy got a new wrinkle this week, which might spell more legal pressure on Autonomy executives.

On Monday, Judge Charles R. Breyer of U.S. District Court in San Francisco said that HP and the lawyers suing the company must file a revised proposed settlement agreement. The new deal, he said, should steer clear of payments to the lawyers representing HP shareholders, who are suing HP, and focus on how the giant technology company can improve its behavior.

Down the road, the two sides still seem free to go after Autonomy.

HP is being sued in conjunction with its \$8.8 billion write-down for its acquisition of Autonomy, a data analysis company. HP has urged authorities in the United States and Britain to investigate Autonomy for criminal fraud, and has said it will seek damages. Autonomy officials have denied any wrongdoing.

The shareholder lawsuit against HP included charges of poor corporate governance in buying Autonomy. In June, lawyers in the case agreed to drop all claims against HP officials, while HP said it would join the lawyers in going after Autonomy executives, including its former chief executive, Michael Lynch. The deal, which would have paid the shareholders' lawyers an \$18 million retainer and up to \$48 million in fees, while offering nothing in the way of money or answers to the shareholders themselves, was criticized by many.

The judge said on Monday that he would not approve those fees. He held out the possibility, however, that HP could hire the lawyers, including lawyers from Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, which is leading the case against HP. □

Burger King plans expansion of Tim Hortons

MIAMI (AP) — The fight for the coffee and breakfast crowd is heating up, both at home and abroad.

Burger King said Tuesday it will buy Tim Hortons in an \$11 billion deal that would create the world's third largest fast-food chain. The company is hoping to turn the coffee-and-doughnut chain into a household name outside Canada, and give itself a stronger foothold in the booming morning business.

Alex Behring, Burger King's executive chairman, said the new company would be one of the fastest-growing fast-food chains in the world.

The international ambitions for Tim Hortons echo the strategy Burger King's owner, 3G Capital, has applied to Burger King since buying the hamburger chain in 2010. Given Burger King's struggles in the U.S., the investment firm has focused on opening more locations in countries including China and Russia by striking deals with local franchisees.

Last year, for example, 3G accelerated expansion and opened 670 Burger King locations. Burger King now has nearly 14,000 locations globally, but the company has noted that's still far less than the more than 35,000 McDonald's restaurants around the world. In the U.S., Tim Hortons could also give Burger King another way to tap into the attractive coffee and breakfast markets, which have been dominated by players including McDonald's, Dunkin' Donuts and Starbucks. Marc Caira, the CEO of Tim Hortons, noted the Canadian

chain's recent efforts to make a bigger push into the U.S., including updated store designs that feature couches and fireplaces.

Caira said he felt Tim Hortons could "win much quicker" in the U.S. with the help of Burger King. Most of Tim Hortons more than 4,500 locations are in Canada; 866 of them are in the U.S. Last year, Tim Hortons' U.S. sales rose 1.8 percent

After the deal, which is expected to close by early next year, Burger King and Tim Horton said their newly combined company would have about \$23 billion in sales and more than 18,000 locations. The corporate headquarters will be in Canada, but Burger King will still be operated out of Miami. Executives said the two chains will continue to be run inde-

3G Capital will own about 51 percent of the new company. Last year, the firm also teamed up with Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway to buy ketchup maker H.J. Heinz Co.

Berkshire Hathaway is also helping finance the Tim Hortons deal with \$3 billion of preferred equity financing, but will not have a role in managing operations.

Under the deal, Burger King



Customers at a Tim Hortons store in New York, Aug. 25, 2014. Burger King is in advanced talks to acquire Tim Hortons, the Canadian coffee-and-doughnut chain, for more than \$8 billion, in what would be the largest ever acquisition of a restaurant chain.

(Hiroko Masuie/The New York Times)

at established locations.

Winning over customers will nevertheless be a challenge for Tim Hortons, considering the chain's lack of name recognition in the U.S. Competition in the mornings has also been intensifying. Taco Bell, for instance, recently launched a national breakfast menu and Starbucks revamped and expanded its breakfast offerings. McDonald's has said it plans to put more marketing muscle behind breakfast to defend its leadership position.

pendently. That means people shouldn't expect to see Timbits — Tim Hortons' miniature doughnuts — alongside Whoppers on Burger King menus.

"There's no plans to mix the products or do co-branding," said Daniel Schwartz, CEO of Burger King and a principal of 3G Capital.

Burger King executives also stressed the deal wasn't being driven by a desire for lower tax rates: Schwartz said the company doesn't expect to achieve any "meaningful tax savings."

will pay \$65.50 Canadian (\$59.74) in cash and 0.8025 common shares of the new company for each Tim Hortons share. This represents total value per Tim Hortons share of \$94.05 Canadian (US\$85.79), based on Burger King's Monday closing stock price. Alternatively, Tim Hortons shareholders may choose either all-cash or all stock in the new company. Tim Hortons stock was up nearly 9 percent at \$81.25. Burger King's shares were down 2 percent to \$31.63. □

China investigating managers at VW joint venture

BEIJING (AP) — The Chinese anti-corruption agency said Tuesday it is investigating one current and one former manager at Volkswagen's main joint venture in China.

A former deputy general manager of First Auto Works-Volkswagen, Li Wu, and a deputy sales manager of the venture's Audi

division, Zhou Chun, are suspected of "serious violations," according to the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said. The one-sentence announcement gave no details. There was no indication Volkswagen AG was a target of the investigation. A Volkswagen spokeswoman in Beijing declined

to comment.

FAW-Volkswagen is a joint venture between the German automaker and state-owned FAW Group Corp. Phone calls to FAW and to VW spokespeople were not answered.

Global automakers are under scrutiny by Chinese anti-monopoly regulators. An official said earlier that

Audi, Volkswagen's luxury unit, would face unspecified punishment for violating the anti-monopoly law. A number of Chinese executives at major companies including PetroChina Ltd., Asia's biggest oil and gas producer, have been detained in a sweeping anti-corruption crackdown. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		5	9				4	2
	2					3		
8					5			
6					9			
9					7			
5	3	1			8	4	9	
7			8		3			4
2			5		4			6
	1	8				7	3	

Difficulty Level ★★★

8/27

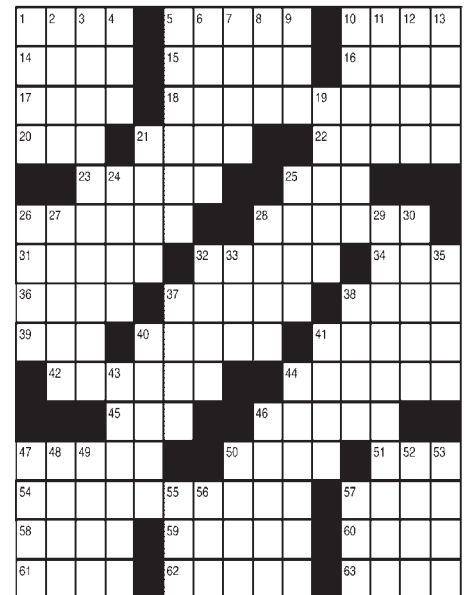
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	5	3	6	9	8	2	1	4
6	2	1	3	7	4	5	8	9
4	8	9	2	1	5	7	6	3
5	3	2	9	8	6	1	4	7
8	6	4	1	5	7	9	3	2
1	9	7	4	2	3	8	5	6
3	1	8	7	4	2	6	9	5
2	4	5	8	6	9	3	7	1
9	7	6	5	3	1	4	2	8

ACROSS

- 1 Tender loving __; TLC
- 5 Voting place
- 10 Learn by __; memorize
- 14 Floored
- 15 Clay brick
- 16 Mountain goat
- 17 Craze
- 18 Inscere words of allegiance
- 20 Retina's place
- 21 Helpful hint
- 22 Sworn statements
- 23 Take as the rightful owner
- 25 Buddy
- 26 Terra firma
- 28 Actress Jacqueline __
- 31 T-shirt size
- 32 Vote into office
- 34 " __ Along, Little Dogies"
- 36 Gabor & others
- 37 Smug smile
- 38 Barcelona bull
- 39 Butterfly catcher's need
- 40 Ajax competitor
- 41 Intertwined
- 42 Close at hand
- 44 Groom's suit
- 45 __ and don'ts; rules to follow
- 46 Obi fabric, often
- 47 __ grease; hard work
- 50 Baseball's Ruth
- 51 Actor Selleck
- 54 Bum
- 57 Egg on
- 58 Go out with
- 59 Irritate
- 60 Gentlemen
- 61 Jacuzzis
- 62 Religious belief
- 63 Highest cards



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/27/14

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

COOP	GHANA	SHAM
AXLE	ROPES	POLE
TEEN	ELECT	UMPS
ENGAGED	TIGRESS	
LAD	BARON	
FEATS	PER	REACH
ONLY	TEA	REDSEA
ADO	MATCHES	SAW
LONDON	HEX	DESK
SWEET	MEN	NOTES
TOGAS	CAL	
MISERLY	REPEALS	
ODES	AHEAD	FLEA
SLAT	ZEBRA	USES
SETS	EMBER	LOSS

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8/27/14

DOWN

- 1 Lunch spot
- 2 Out of town
- 3 Change the looks of a room
- 4 Ames & Asner

- 5 Sickly looking
- 6 Hatred
- 7 Easy gait
- 8 Pounds: abbr.
- 9 Behold
- 10 Foes
- 11 Death notice, for short
- 12 Georgia __; public research univ. in Atlanta
- 13 Old flames?
- 19 Rump __; cut of beef
- 21 Prop for Charlie Chaplin
- 24 Drags along with effort
- 25 Choose
- 26 Secluded valley
- 27 Bird in a Poe poem
- 28 Ernie's pal
- 29 Self-absorbed
- 30 Fatigued
- 32 Award for "Cheers"
- 33 Whopper
- 35 Commotion
- 37 Weeps
- 38 Hired vehicle
- 40 Mass of people
- 41 Early guitar
- 43 Worships
- 44 Pill
- 46 Soothing cream
- 47 Finishes
- 48 Jump
- 49 Alpha's follower
- 50 Has __; one no longer popular
- 52 Meanie
- 53 State of clutter
- 55 __ for; choose
- 56 Tiny
- 57 Neighbor of Mexico: abbr.

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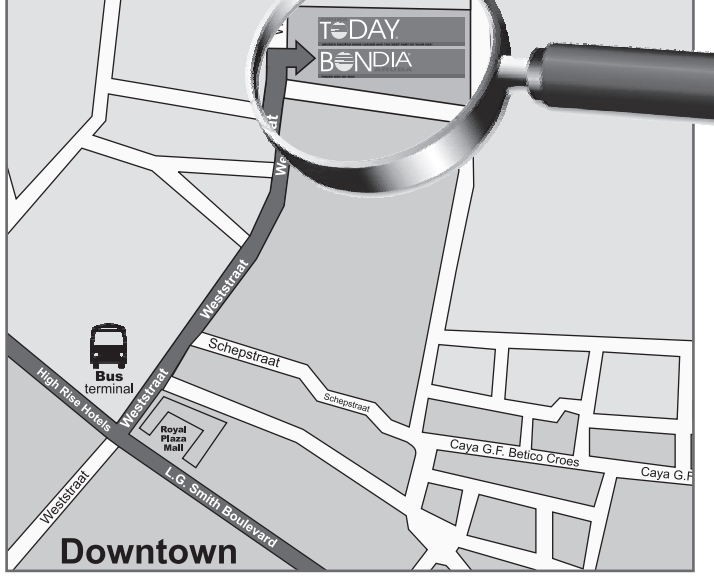
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AP Exclusive: Expert calls for nuke plant closure

MICHAEL R. BLOOD

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A senior federal nuclear expert is urging regulators to shut down California's last operating nuclear plant until they can determine whether the facility's twin reactors can withstand powerful shaking from nearby earthquake faults. Michael Peck, who for five years was Diablo Canyon's lead inspector, says in a confidential report that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is not applying safety rules it set out for the plant's operation.

The document, which was obtained and verified by The Associated Press, does not say the plant is unsafe. Instead, according to Peck's analysis, no one knows whether the facility's equipment can withstand strong shaking from those faults — the potential for which was realized decades after the facility was built.

Continuing to run the reactors, Peck writes, "chal-



This Monday Nov. 3, 2008, file photo, shows one of Pacific Gas and Electric's Diablo Canyon Power Plant's nuclear reactors in Avila Beach on California's central coast.

Associated Press

lenges the presumption of nuclear safety."

Earthquake faults and nuclear power plants have long been uneasy neighbors in the state. The Humboldt Bay plant in Northern

California, which was relatively near three faults, was shut down in 1976 to refuel and reinforce its ability to withstand earthquakes.

Peck's 2013 filing is part of an agency review in which employees can appeal a supervisor's or agency ruling. The NRC, however, has not yet ruled. Spokeswoman Lara Uselding said in emails that the agency would have no comment. The NRC, which oversees the nation's commercial nuclear power industry, and Diablo Canyon owner Pacific Gas and Electric Co., say the nearly three-decade-old reactors are safe and that the facility complies with its operating license, including earthquake safety standards.

PG&E spokesman Blair Jones said the NRC has exhaustively analyzed earthquake threats for Diablo Canyon and demonstrated that it "is seismically safe." Jones said in an email that the core issue involving earthquake ground motions was resolved in the 1970s with seismic retrofitting of the plant.

Following the AP report, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee announced it would hold hearings into how the NRC has handled Peck's

recommendation. Sen. Barbara Boxer, a California Democrat who chairs the panel, said in a statement she's alarmed his report has lingered at the agency for a year. "The NRC's failure to act constitutes an abdication of its responsibility to protect public health and safety," she said.

The disaster preparedness of the world's nuclear plants came into sharp focus in 2011, when a coastal plant in Japan suffered multiple meltdowns because of a magnitude-9 earthquake and tsunami. The NRC has since directed U.S. nuclear plants to re-evaluate seismic risks, with studies due by March 2015. The importance of such an analysis was underscored Sunday when a magnitude 6-earthquake struck Northern California and injured scores of people.

Environmentalists have long depicted Diablo Canyon — the state's last nuclear plant — as a nuclear catastrophe in waiting.

What's striking about Peck's analysis is that it comes from within the NRC. At issue are whether the plant's mechanical guts could survive a big jolt, and what yardsticks should be used to measure the ability of the equipment to withstand strong vibrations.

The conflict between Peck and his superiors stems from the 2008 discovery of the Shoreline fault. A larger crack, the Hosgri fault, had been discovered in the 1970s. Surveys have mapped a network of other faults north and south of the reactors.

According to Peck's filing, PG&E research in 2011 determined that any of three nearby faults — the Shoreline, Los Osos and San Luis Bay — is capable of producing significantly more ground motion during an earthquake than was accounted for in the design of important plant equipment.

The findings say PG&E failed to demonstrate that the equipment would remain operable if exposed to stronger shaking, violating its operating license.

The agency should shut the facility down until it is proven that piping and other systems can meet higher stress levels, or approve exemptions that would allow the plant to continue to operate, according to Peck's analysis.

Peck disagreed with his supervisors' decision to let the plant operate without assessing the findings. Unable to resolve his concerns, Peck in 2012 filed two objections, the first calling for PG&E to be cited for violating safety standards, according to his filing.

The NRC says the Hosgri fault line presents the greatest earthquake risk and that Diablo Canyon's reactors can withstand the largest projected quake on it. In his analysis, Peck wrote that after officials learned of the Hosgri fault's potential shaking power, the NRC never changed requirements for the structural strength of many systems in the plant.

In 2012, the agency endorsed preliminary findings that found shaking from the Shoreline fault would not pose any risks for the reactors. Those greater ground motions were "at or below those for which the plant was evaluated previously," referring to the Hosgri fault, it concluded. □

Last Call: Pluto-bound craft crosses Neptune orbit

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — NASA calls it a cosmic coincidence.

On Monday, NASA's New Horizons spacecraft crossed the orbit of Neptune on its way to Pluto. The celestial milestone occurred on the 25th anniversary of Voyager 2's historic flyby of Neptune.

It's the last major intersection for New Horizons, which is due at Pluto next summer after nearly a de-

cade of travel.

Neptune wasn't exactly close to the spacecraft Monday. In fact, the planet was 2.5 billion miles (4 billion kilometers) away.

Scientist Alan Stern of the Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Colorado, says this will be the first opportunity in a generation to explore a new planetary system up close. New Horizons will study not only mysterious Pluto, but also its moons, some of which might still be hidden. □



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Hear (and watch) women roar on new fall TV shows

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — “The Good Wife,” “Homeland,” “Scandal,” “Nurse Jackie” and, well, “Girls” are just a few current shows that put women front and center. And this fall, even more women are stepping up. As if TV programmers were in a classroom cribbing off one another’s exams, a few common themes emerge. One prevalent theme: the fantasy world of comic books and sci-fi, courtesy of newcomers “The Flash” (CW), “Gotham” (Fox), “Constantine” (NBC) and “Forever” (ABC). Spies and anti-terrorism also remain big in our heebie-jeebie era, with “Scorpion” (CBS) as well as a couple of the shows below.

But strong females are the dominant trend — and dominate in prime time this fall.

— “MADAM SECRETARY” (CBS, Sept. 21). Elizabeth McCord is a loving wife and mother and a brilliant former CIA analyst who is abruptly drawn back into public life as U.S. secretary of state after the incumbent’s suspicious death. Tea Leoni plays a woman who has it all — including growing concerns that she, too, may be on the endangered list.

— “THE MYSTERIES OF LAURA” (NBC; Sept. 24). Detective Laura Diamond doesn’t flinch, whether it’s flouting regulations to nab a bad guy or cooking up

a scheme to get her twin boys into a private school. She’s always in a frenzy, forever creating waves, and mostly getting what she wants through sheer force of will.

As played by Debra Messing, she even manages to be sexy in an offbeat sort of way, in the rumpled raincoat she habitually wears. — “HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER” (ABC; Sept. 25). She is a thunderous presence in the classroom as she teaches law students how to spring their clients, whatever it takes. And in her law practice, she is a Machiavellian figure leading a team of top-flight students to help her tackle tough cases. As Annalise Keating, series star Viola Davis is powerful and often disturbing, never to be overlooked nor underestimated.

— “BAD JUDGE” (NBC; Oct. 2). Kate Walsh plays a woman who, in the courtroom, makes Judge Judy look like a pushover, then, after-hours, makes Snooki look like a wallflower. This is a woman who doesn’t hesitate to announce from the bench her relief that her pregnancy test has come up negative. The only way she could create more of a stir is if she were appointed to the Supreme Court (maybe Season 2?).

— “CRISTELA” (ABC, Oct. 10). This sitcom’s young heroine is working multiple jobs to fund her dream of becoming a lawyer. And



This image released by ABC shows Viola Davis, center, from the series, “How To Get Away With Murder,” premiering Sept. 30.

Associated Press

when she gets slammed by her family for taking so long in law school, or for drinking the last beer in the fridge, she can return their salvos with equivalent gusto.

— “JANE THE VIRGIN” (CW, Oct. 13). Jane Villanueva is a radiant and ambitious young woman whose future is abruptly complicated when she learns that, despite her decision to wait, her virgin status has been compromised through an

accidental sperm insemination. Now she faces yet another, very unexpected challenge — pregnancy — necessitating hard choices that will affect not only her life but also many others’ around her.

— “STATE OF AFFAIRS” (NBC, Nov. 17). CIA analyst Charleston Tucker is joining such past and present CIA heroines as Elizabeth McCord (“Madam Secretary”) and “Homeland” stalwart

Carrie Mathison, but with her own specialty: compiling and delivering to the Oval Office the president’s Daily Briefing every morning.

But Charleston’s bond with the chief executive is even tighter than this, since she used to be engaged to the president’s son — that is, until he was killed by a terrorist attack. And wouldn’t you know it: the president is a woman, too! □

Video game makers: Lohan sued us for attention

NEW YORK (AP) — The makers of the “Grand Theft Auto” video games say Lindsay Lohan sued to get attention when she asserted the games’ latest installment features a character based on her. In Manhattan court papers made public Tuesday, Take-Two Interactive Software Inc. and subsidiary Rockstar Games call the case frivolous and maintain it was “filed for publicity purposes.” They want it dismissed

and want the “Mean Girls” star to pay their legal fees. Lohan’s lawyer didn’t immediately return a call seeking comment.

Lohan sued in July over “Grand Theft Auto V.” Her suit says the game uses her image, voice and style and evokes her via a character named Lacey Jonas. Take-Two says her voice, name and likeness aren’t used, and the character resembles her only in being a young, blonde woman. □

NBC’s Emmycast logs robust 15.6 million viewership

NEW YORK (AP) — NBC says the Emmys thrived despite a Monday airing in the dog days of August. Broadcast on a nontraditional night prior to Labor Day, the television awards show nonetheless logged 15.6 million viewers. It was the second biggest audience for an Emmy Awards broadcast in eight years, NBC said Tuesday.

The viewership was exceeded only by last year’s airing by CBS, when it drew 17.8 million viewers on a Sunday in September, with an NFL game as lead-in. The 15.6-million audience makes this the most-watched night on any net-



Bryan Cranston kisses Julia Louis-Dreyfus, center front, as she accepts the award for outstanding lead actress in a comedy series for her work on “Veep” at the 66th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards at the Nokia Theatre L.A. Live on Monday, Aug. 25, 2014, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

work since ABC’s Academy Awards on March 2, when 35.2 million viewers were tuned in.

The Emmycast, which aired from Los Angeles live across all time zones, was hosted by Seth Meyers. □

Publisher acquires Robin Williams biography



This Nov. 23, 2009 photo released by Starpix shows actor-comedian Robin Williams performing his stand-up show, "Weapons of Self Destruction," at Town Hall in New York.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York Times cultural reporter who has written extensively about Robin Williams is working on a book about the late actor-comedian. Henry Holt and Co. announced Tuesday it had acquired a planned biography by the Times' Dave Itzkoff.

The book is currently untitled. No publication date has been set.

Williams was the manic superstar of the sitcom "Mork and Mindy" and later won an Oscar for his work in "Good Will Hunting." He committed suicide at age 63. His body was found in his Northern California home on Aug. 11. Itzkoff's "Mad as Hell: The Making of Network and the Fateful Vision of the Angriest Man in Movies" was published this year.

Robert Hass wins \$100,000 poetry prize

NEW YORK (AP) — Robert Hass, a Pulitzer Prize winner and former U.S. poet laureate, has received a \$100,000 lifetime achievement award.

The Academy of American Poets announced Tuesday that Hass had been given the Wallace Stevens award for "outstanding and proven mastery." The 73-year-old Hass is known for such collections as "Time and Materials" and "The Apple Trees at Olema." Previous winners of the Stevens

award include John Ashbery and Adrienne Rich. Also Tuesday, the academy awarded a \$25,000 fellowship to Tracy K. Smith, who in 2012 won the Pulitzer Prize for "Life On Mars."

The academy is a nonprofit organization founded in 1934.



In a Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2007 file photo, former U.S. poet laureate Robert Hass poses on the campus of the University of California in Berkeley, Calif.

Associated Press

Review: 'Mean Streak' is filled with surprises

JEFF AYERS

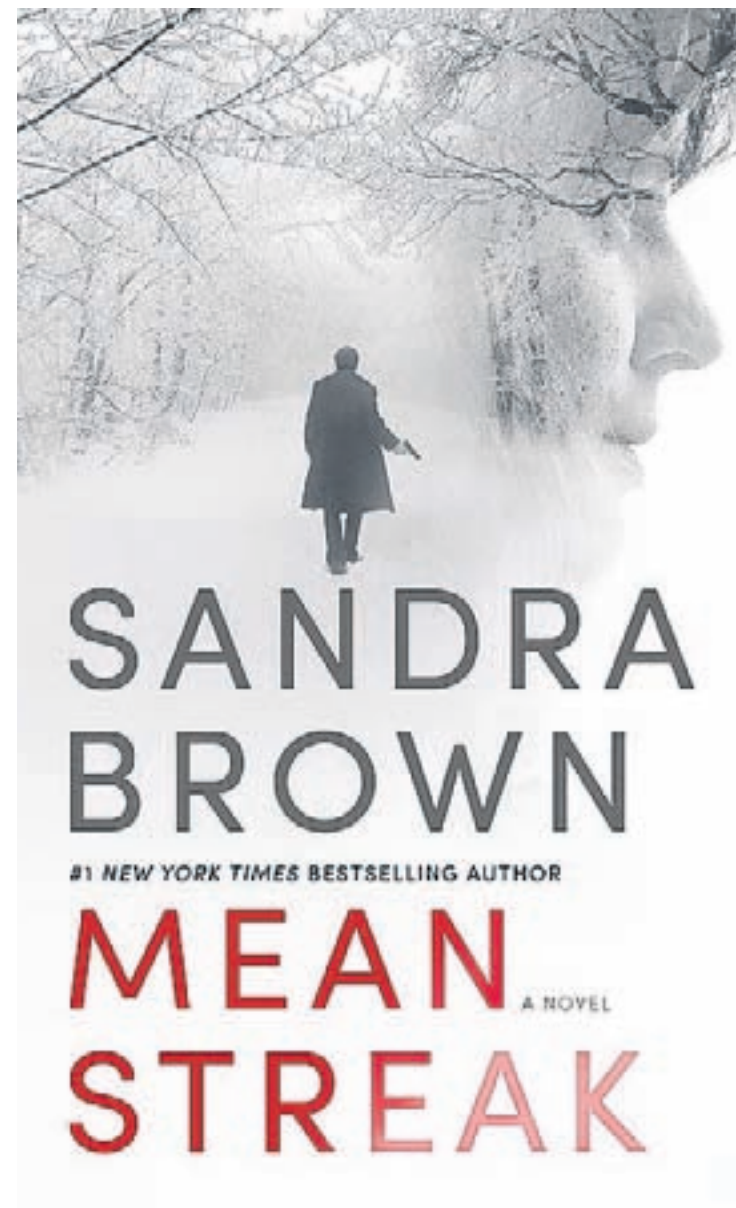
Associated Press

Dr. Emory Charbonneau, a pediatrician and marathon runner, finds herself trapped in an isolated cabin with a man hiding from the world in "Mean Streak," Sandra Brown's latest dive into romantic suspense.

Although Emory has a tumultuous relationship with her husband, Jeff, they are trying to work things out. She arranges to take a weekend off to head to the mountains to train for a marathon, but Jeff is furious, and they argue before she leaves.

Emory arrives at her destination, spends the night in a hotel and is on the trail the next morning. She receives a massive blow to the head and later wakes up inside a cabin. A man tells Emory that he found her unconscious and brought her to the cabin to administer first aid. When she asks for a phone or transportation back to civilization, he comes up with excuses to keep her inside and "safe."

Meanwhile, Jeff begins to wonder about his wife but believes she's still angry after their fight and is intentionally staying away from home. When the police begin to question him about her whereabouts and learn that he is having an affair, they start to think he's responsible for her disappearance.



This book cover image released by Grand Central shows "Mean Streak," by Sandra Brown.

Associated Press

A quick glance might invoke thoughts of a tale mixing Gillian Flynn's "Gone Girl" with Stephen King's "Misery," but as Brown unveils the full scope of

the story, readers will be shocked and delighted about the direction it takes. Full of surprises and terrific characters, "Mean Streak" is one of Brown's best novels.

Jamaica Kincaid wins American Book Award

NEW YORK (AP) — Author Jamaica Kincaid and film critic Armond White are among the winners of the 35th annual American Book Awards, which celebrate multiculturalism and free expression. The Before Columbus Foundation announced Tuesday that Kincaid was cited for the novel "See Now Then." White received an "Anti-Censorship Award" because of his being "unfairly removed" from the New York Film Critics

Circle. In January, he was expelled after allegedly heckling "12 Years a Slave" director Steve McQueen at the group's annual awards banquet. White, known for his contrarian views, has called the allegations a "barrage of lies." Other winners include Andrew Bacevich's nonfiction "Breach of Trust" and Alex Espinoza's novel "The Five Acts of Diego Leon." The awards will be presented Oct. 26 in San Francisco.

The Before Columbus Foundation is a nonprofit founded by author-playwright Ishmael Reed.



Gift Horses Gone Wild



GAIL COLLINS
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It's a tribute to the level of terrible news we've been inundated with this summer that the corruption trial of ex-Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell may qualify as a feel-good story. Unless, of course, you are McDonnell.

The former governor and his wife, Maureen, took about \$177,000 in gifts and loans from Jonnie Williams, the maker of Anatabloc, a dietary supplement that was recently withdrawn from the market under pressure from a deeply unenthusiastic Food and Drug Administration. But back at the time of the gift-giving, Williams, who touts Anatabloc as the best thing since penicillin, was hoping the McDonnells would help him promote it. (We are already feeling cheery, realizing that this is not going to be the sort of alleged misdeed that requires us to say: "There but for the grace of God.")

McDonnell used to be regarded as a Republican rising star, and Mitt Romney invited the then-governor and his wife on a campaign bus ride during veep-hunting season. We learned during the trial that while they were driving around, Maureen McDonnell tried to convince Ann Romney that Anatabloc would be good for her multiple sclerosis.

Romney picked Paul Ryan. We do not know if there was any connection.

The McDonnells, who hosted a launch party for Anatabloc in the governor's mansion, most definitely took a pile of presents from Williams. However, it turns out that's totally legal in Virginia. As long as an elected official reports gifts and there's no quid pro quo, he can accept a bar of gold from a lobbyist every day. Virginians have always believed that their political culture was too upright to require ethics laws. Because, you know, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

When it comes to lessons learned from the McDonnell debacle, No. 1 is: Do not work under the assumption that your officials will do the right thing because you live in a very honest state. This is probably not a problem you need to worry about if you are in, say, New York or Illinois.

Bob McDonnell has told the jury a lot about his firmness in rejecting

some of the goodies that Maureen wanted - like a designer dress for the inaugural. However, he seems to have been far less resolute when Jonnie Williams was doling out things he liked: a luxury vacation, or the use of a private jet. McDonnell told his sons to give back expensive golf clubs (the sons ignored him), but then he accepted a custom golf bag for himself.

The defense is taking the interesting line that Williams could not have gotten any direct benefit from his largesse because the McDonnell marriage was too much of a mess for the couple to deliver. They never talked. Maureen was a harridan who ranted at her staff. Plus, she had a crush on Jonnie Williams, to whom she texted after an earthquake: "I just felt the earth move and I wasn't having sex!!!!"

Bob McDonnell, who turned down a prosecution offer to let him save his wife from trial by pleading guilty to one felony count, has moved out of the family house and is bunking in the rectory with his parish priest. He offered up an email he had sent Maureen describing his "great heartache" over their discord, although he did praise her for doing well on the "FLOVA job."

FLOVA means First Lady of Virginia. It's a take on FLOTUS, which is a term for Michelle Obama. It made me wonder if other states do that. Is the wife of the governor of Ohio FLOOH? New York's would be FLONY, except, of course, we don't have one since our governor is divorced and living with a celebrity cookbook writer.

Which seems, in this context, like a real selling point for Andrew Cuomo. Another lesson from the trial is that you should never vote for somebody because his family looks nice.

When McDonnell ran for governor his campaign aired ads showing the candidate in front of his home, high-fiving the kids and hugging his wife. Now, Virginians could point out the sons who took the golf clubs, the daughter who got \$15,000 for her wedding catering, and, of course, the wife who spent way, way more time on the phone with the diet supplement salesman than with her husband.

Both spouses agree that Bob McDonnell was almost never around. This was due, the governor said, both to the demands of his job and the fact that he was committed to raising \$55 million for the Republican Governors Association.

I think I speak for many of us when I say that it would be one thing to have your husband absent for days on end because the state was in a budget crisis, and another to have him ditch you because he had to collect donations for the Republican governors.

Maybe our final lesson is: Do not marry a politician. □



Lessons Not Learned



JOE NOCERA
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The death of Fernand St Germain last week, at the age of 86, got me thinking about the financial calamity that he was long associated with: the savings and loan crisis of the late 1980s. There are things it could have - and should have - taught us as we spiraled toward the financial crisis less than two decades later.

"Freddie" St Germain was the sort of congressman you don't see much anymore: the lovable rogue, a backslapping, deal-making legislator who saw nothing particularly wrong with taking advantage of his position to feather his own nest. As The Times pointed out in its obituary, he liked to joke that he didn't put a period after "St" because he was hardly a saint. Entering Congress in 1961, when he was 32 years old, he steadily climbed the seniority ladder until he was the chairman of the House Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs in 1981.

It was a terrible time for the nation's 4,600 or so S&Ls. Inflation was raging, and interest rates spiked as high as 21.5 percent. But the interest rate that S&Ls could offer their depositors was fixed at 5.25 percent, an amount established by government regulation. As consumers realized that the value of their deposits was being eroded by inflation, they

began to move their money to a newfangled financial device being offered by mutual fund companies: the money market fund, which paid competitive rates of interest.

It was Congress' view - and it was certainly St Germain's view - that the S&L industry was vital to the American dream of homeownership. Indeed, back then, the only loans the industry was allowed to make were mortgages. Thus, in 1982, Congress passed the Garn-St Germain Depository Institutions Act - which St Germain wrote with Sen. Edwin "Jake" Garn, R-Utah - which essentially deregulated the industry, allowing S&Ls not only to pay market interest rates but to make loans far afield from home mortgages.

The idea was that S&Ls needed to be able to make more profitable loans since they were going to be paying much higher interest rates to gain deposits. What nobody seemed to realize was that financial deregulation was bound to have unintended consequences. S&Ls went from being the most cautious of financial institutions to the most heedless. S&L operators dove into all kinds of exotic areas. By the late 1980s, it had all come a cropper; ultimately more than 1,000 S&Ls - one out of every three still operating in 1988 - went under. The industry's collapse cost the taxpayers nearly \$125 billion.

In some ways, the legislators who deregulated the S&L industry felt that they had no choice - if they didn't act, the S&Ls would have been in terrible trouble, just of a different kind. Seventeen years later, when Congress repealed the Glass-Steagall Act - thus deregulating the entire financial services industry - it didn't have that excuse. The drive to abolish Glass-Steagall was ideologically inspired, the core belief being that the market would keep the industry honest. But the S&L crisis had proved that wasn't true.

Rather, bankers were only too happy to privatize profits and so-

cialize losses. During the S&L crisis, bankers fueled an unsustainable commercial real estate bubble, sold bonds to customers that turned out to be worthless, and, generally, used shoddy business practices to enrich themselves. In the years leading up to the 2008 financial crisis, bankers handed out mortgages to millions of people who lacked the ability to repay them, and then bundled those mortgages into toxic subprime mortgage bonds. It was just a variation on a theme.

There is another lesson from the S&L crisis. In its aftermath, there were somewhere around 1,100 prosecutions, the most famous of which was that of Charles Keating, the chairman of the Lincoln Savings and Loan Association, an institution that cost the government \$3.4 billion when it collapsed. A few years ago, I asked someone who had been involved in prosecuting S&L operators why the government had been so intent on putting them in prison.

"Because the country demanded it," he said.

In the wake of the financial crisis, the Department of Justice also set up a task force to root out the wrongdoing that led to the financial crisis. But it has mostly been a joke. The prosecutions have been mostly small-time stuff: homeowners who lied on liar loans, for instance. Meanwhile, not one single employee of Countrywide Financial has been prosecuted, even though Countrywide loans were at the very heart of the financial crisis.

Earlier this week, Bank of America agreed to pay \$16.65 billion to settle a handful of government investigations.

Bank of America, of course, bought Countrywide in 2008, and the huge sum it was paying was the government's way of showing that it was tough on financial crime after all. But it's not the same as prosecuting those responsible. After all, the country is still demanding it. □

Tennis Line Umpires: They Know The Ins And Outs

BEN ROTHENBERG

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Line umpires are charged with a fairly simple task: to sit or stand around the perimeter of the court and monitor one specific line, calling the ball out if it lands beyond that line. But they have to make a correct call, instantaneously, on a ball that can be traveling upward of 140 mph if it is a serve. They also have to keep their view from being obstructed by

or left-handed (which changes how a serve will spin), as well as more advanced patterns like tendencies when a player is facing a break point. "The experienced line judges watch them during a warm-up," Vormbaum said. "They have called on a court with them before, so they have an idea of where the best place is to stand so that you have an unobstructed view of your line. You have to have an

it's likely that the serve is going to go to his backhand on the first serve," Penry said. "The returner is going to move around to get to his forehand on the first serve; a lot of guys like to hit the inside out." To increase their chances of seeing where a serve lands, line umpires working on the sidelines will sometimes shift position slightly before a serve. "What you don't want is to be blocked in any of that

experience." Some line umpires assigned to the sideline will take a different tack, moving toward the middle of the court instead of outside the sideline. "You have to be counter-intuitive," said Jim Bodensick, who is officiating at his 20th Open this year. "You have to go against the flow so that if the player goes in front of you, if they go right, you go left. Some people stay with the flow,

it's touching the edge or missing by millimeters." Marija Cicak started as a line umpire when she was 15 at satellite tournaments in her native Croatia and worked her way up to more prestigious tournaments to become a chair umpire. In July at Wimbledon, Cicak officiated a Grand Slam singles final for the first time. Cicak said that next to great vision, which must be checked regularly for officials, match experience was the most important asset for a line umpire.

"It's not easy to call a ball that you see just out on match point that could be a double fault," she said. "You have to know how to deal with the pressure."

The pressure would seem to have increased when line umpires' calls began to be publicly audited in 2006, when the Hawk-Eye review system was introduced. But Vormbaum, who was the chief of line umpires when the challenge system made its debut, remembered being impressed by how the technology validated their calls.

"We were anxious beforehand because we want the calls to be right," she said. "That's all we want. There would be nothing more frustrating than making a great call and having the machine say something else. But it didn't come to be."

Though the chair umpire is a fixed role at nearly every level of professional tennis, the number of line umpires varies. At show courts at the U.S. Open, there are nine line umpires per court; on outer courts there are seven (the official calling the center service line moves to the left or right to cover the sideline for the next shot).

Just like players, line umpires advance through the tournament based on merit. As the tournament progresses from qualifying through the main draw and the number of matches shrinks, the officials who have received the best marks for their work advance. □



Ana Ivanovic, of Serbia, returns a shot against Alison Riske, of the United States, during the opening round of the 2014 U.S. Open tennis tournament, as a line umpire looks on, Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2014, in New York. (AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

the player trying to return the shot they are calling. The first step in accomplishing this task happens before the match.

Joan Vormbaum, a veteran chief of line umpires who has officiated at the U.S. Open 31 times, said that the most experienced officials picked up on patterns of the specific players they were watching, particularly when working sidelines for a serve, so they could anticipate the most advantageous position for an unobscured line of sight. These patterns include basics like whether the server is right-handed

unobstructed view of the ball approaching your line because we don't really see that point of contact when it's a 140-mph. serve - you see the approaching trajectory and the departing trajectory. Your brain manufactures an image." Lamont Penry, who will be officiating at the Open for a 33rd year, also adjusts for the patterns of returners who may cheat toward one side to improve their odds of hitting their preferred type of shot, putting their body in an unexpected place.

"If it's the deuce court and the returner is a lefty, then

process," Vormbaum said, "by a player's racket or his leg, or with the girls a skirt, or something like that."

To keep returners from blinding them, line umpires will stand wide of a line to observe it from an angle instead of directly behind it. As the player moves with the oncoming ball, the official maintains an unpaired vantage point.

"You don't want to go too wide because then when the ball comes down, it blocks your view of the space between the ball and the line," Vormbaum said. "So it's a total judgment call, and it's all about

and they're blocked.

"You want to have a clear view, and you want to be focused where the ball hits, when it hits, and with your head still. That way, your eyes can take the picture, and then you can instantaneously make the judgment and the call."

Though each line on a tennis court is at least 1 inch wide (the baseline is wider), elite umpires train their eyes on the outside edge of the line.

"If the ball is on the line, dead on the line, that's usually a very easy call," Bodensick said. "We're calling the edges, whether